



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

**HECTOR C. LORA, MAYOR**

GARY SCHAER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
PATRICK TRENTACOST, FIRE CHIEF

## Fire Safety for **Jewish Observances**

*T*he Sabbath and Jewish holidays are a time of family gatherings, celebrated with special foods, songs, and customs. Many hold days and observances. As well as the weekly Sabbath, are a time of traditional cooking and candle rituals.

However, without safety precautions, these customary religious observances may increase the risks for fire-related injuries.

*Celebrate your heritage safely with the following guidelines.*



## *Preparing the Kitchen and Cooking*

Fifty percent of apartment fires and one-quarter of the fires in private homes start in the kitchen. Most home cooking fires involve the stovetop portion of the range. One-third of these fires result from unattended cooking.

The majority of fires and burns can be prevented during food preparation by taking precautions. Follow these precautions when preparing the kitchen and cooking, especially for the Sabbath and holiday meals, when there is increased activity in the kitchen:

- Stay in the kitchen – do not leave cooking food unattended.
- Wear tighter or snug-fitting sleeves. (Loose sleeves are more likely to catch fire or get caught on pot handles.)
- Take extra precautions when handling boiling water.
- Cook at indicated temperature settings, rather than higher settings.
- Do not become distracted by attending to children, or answering phone calls or doorbells.
- Create a “kid-free zone” of at least three feet around you stove.
- Keep area clear of towels, papers, or anything else that can burn.
- Turn pot handles inward, facing the wall, to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.
- Have a pot lid or container of baking soda handy to smother a pan fire. **DO NOT USE WATER.**
- Treat burns immediately with cool running water and seek medical attention.

**SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES**

**CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES**

**SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES**



A Public Safety Message from the Passaic, NJ Fire Department

*Your Safety is our Mission*





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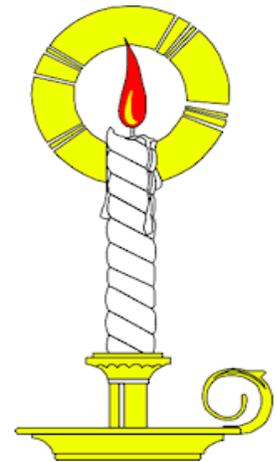
## Fire Safety for **Jewish Observances**

### *Sabbath and Holiday Safety*

More than 33% of candle fires occur when candles are left unattended. Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home are younger than 20 years of age, with most of the victims between the ages of five and nine. Burns and fires are the leading cause of death in the home for children and young adults.

Holiday times mean candles, matches, and fire. When burning candles, make sure your home is safe by observing the following guidelines:

- Using sturdy candleholders, with flame-protective, non-combustible (glass or metal) shades or globes.
- Placing candles at least four feet away from curtains, draperies, blinds, kitchen cabinets, and bedding.
- Place candles out of reach of small children and pets..
- Extinguishing candles when they burn within two inches of a holder.
- Never leaving burning candles unattended.
- Securing hair and clothing, such as sleeves or aprons, from the flame when handling candles.
- Keeping candles, matches, and lighters, including lit memorial containers and Chanukah menorahs, out of reach of children.



*When searching for hametz, keep candles away from bedding, tablecloths, clothing, or anything else that can burn. Use a flashlight for hard-to-reach places.*



### IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS FROM THE PASSAIC FIRE DEPARTMENT



#### **Develop a Fire Escape Plan:**

- *Can our family survive a fire in the home?*
- Protect your family by planning and practicing a home fire escape plan. Know two ways out from each room and agree on a meeting place outside so that you will know everyone is out safely.

#### **Make Sure Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms Work:**

- *Twice a year when you change your clocks:*
- Check/change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries.
- Practice your home fire escape plan.

#### **If There is a Fire:**

- DO NOT try to fight the fire yourself.
- Get out and stay out. DO NOT try to gather personal possessions.
- CLOSE THE DOOR ON YOUR WAY OUT.
- If smoke is present, exit as low to the ground as possible and keep your mouth covered.
- **Call 9-1-1 once you reach a safe location.**
- If any part of your clothing catches fire, DO NOT run or try to put the fire out with your hands. Cover your face with your hands, drop to the ground, and roll over and over again.