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DOG SAVES LIFE OF OWNER AFTER UNATTENDED CANDLE STARTS FIRE AT DRESS SHOP

Glendale, Ariz. — A business owner's dog is being called a hero after a fire was started by an unattended candle at a downtown Glendale business early Tuesday morning.

Prior to fire crews being dispatched to Abra Formal Wear located at 7157 North 59 Avenue, the owner, Karen Mariluch, who was asleep in the back room of the business, was woken up by her dog frantically nudging her. Upon waking up, Ms. Mariluch smelled the smoke that had filled up majority of the occupancy that she also uses as a residence. Ms. Mariluch was able to quickly get herself and her dog out of the occupancy, through the back door and safely into the backyard.

According to Ms. Mariluch, Abra Formal Wear is not out of business, is currently in the process of receiving new items from the sister store in Grand Junction, Colorado and is available by appointment until the store can be reopened with all new items for sale.

Glendale Fire investigators believe the fire was started by an unattended candle.

The Glendale Fire Department wants to remind everyone to use extra care when using candles.

FACTS

- In 2010, there were approximately 9,600 U.S. home fires started by candles. Of those 9,600 fires, 90 people died and 820 were injured.
- Candle fires cause \$370 million in direct property damage.
- 36% of home candle fires start in the bedroom
- 55% of candle fires were from a combustible material placed too close to the candle.
- 12% of candle fires started after the user fell asleep.

SAFETY TIPS

- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can burn such as curtains, clothing and paper.
- Use sturdy candleholders that won't tip over and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candles in areas where children and pets cannot get near them or tip them.
- Keep candles away from flammable liquids.
- Trim wicks to one-quarter inch.
- Discard candles when wicks are within two inches of the holder.
- Store candles and matches out of a child's reach.
- Do not use a candle during a power outage, use a flashlight.

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