



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GlendaleAZ.com/Fire

Glendale Fire Department

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BURNING INCENSE RESPONSIBLE FOR STRIP MALL FIRE

Glendale, Ariz. — On Friday, September 2, at approximately 1:00 p.m., Glendale Firefighters were dispatched to a strip mall fire at 6550 West Glendale Avenue.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, they found a working fire in the bathroom of one of the occupancies and were able to extinguish it before it spread to the other businesses.

Investigators believe the fire started when an incense stick was left unattended burning on top of a box in the restroom.

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

SAFETY TIPS:

- Burning incense is hot and can cause a significant burn on the skin or clothing so use with extreme caution.
- Always place your incense on a heat-resistant surface, such as a trivet or ceramic tile. Depending on what method you're using the outside of your censer may get very hot.
- If you're using charcoal tablets to burn non-combustible incense always use a burner that can take the heat. Charcoal can burn at up to 1500 degrees F. -- that's very, very hot!
- Place your burning incense in or on a stable, non-flammable, heatproof burner. Some incense burners get very hot, especially if they're not insulated. Charcoal tablets burned in a glass container without the use of sand or ash can cause the burner to get extremely hot and even shatter.

- Make sure your burner is properly insulated so that the surface you place it on is protected from the heat that it could generate. A very hot burner can damage or discolor wooden surfaces and shatter glass table tops!
- Ash falling outside your incense burner could discolor furniture. It may even be hot enough to cause a fire hazard. Make sure all incense ash falls on a fireproof surface.
- Position your incense away from drapes, lampshades, and other flammable objects that could ignite.
- Keep both unlit and burning incense out of reach of children and pets. Innocent curiosity can lead to accidents and injuries.
- Never leave burning incense unattended. If you have to leave or you're going to sleep and your incense is still burning, put it out!
- Make sure all your spent incense materials are completely extinguished and cold to the touch, before discarding (i.e. incense, matches, ash, charcoal). Charcoal ash can remain hot for hours after your incense has burned out. Hot incense material can ignite in a wastebasket.

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