



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GlendaleAZ.com/Fire

Glendale Fire Department

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BURNING INCENSE BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED GLENDALE HOUSE FIRE

Glendale, Ariz. — Fire investigators believe incense caused a first alarm house fire in Glendale on Monday, May 8.

Firefighters responded to a home near Glendale and 81st avenues around 4 p.m. and found a working fire that had already started to consume majority of the house. Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it spread to the neighboring houses.

Investigators believe the fire started when a burning incense stick was left unattended on the back porch, catching near-by bushes on fire and eventually spreading to the house.

The home was a complete loss.

The Glendale Fire Department wants everyone to follow these safety tips when using incense:

- Burning incense are 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 burner 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!
- 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 must 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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