



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
**Division of Fire and Life Safety**  
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**For Immediate Release:**

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**State Fire Marshal Reminds South Carolinians to be Fire Safe Following Hurricane**

State Fire Marshal Bert Polk is reminding all citizens to be fire safe in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, especially when using generators and candles.

South Carolinians can reduce their risks of becoming a fire casualty by following these safety tips:

**Candle Safety**

- Use a sturdy candle holder and place on an uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish it upon leaving the room.

**Generator Safety**

- Operate a generator in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from doors, windows, and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors, or other openings.
- Never refuel a generator while it is running. Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Store generator fuel in a properly labeled container. Store the container outside of living areas.

Chief Polk also offers these cooking related fire safety tips:

- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home or garage, unless specifically designed for use in an enclosed space and provides instructions for safe use in an enclosed area.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home or garage.

Lastly, if there is a fire emergency, call 9-1-1 as soon as possible and remain outdoors. Never return inside a burning building.

The State Fire Marshal's Office and the Fire Academy make up the Division of Fire and Life Safety, which is a division of the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.