

OPEN FLAME POLICY

Statement of Policy:

All of us at Indian Springs Baptist Church want to utilize good stewardship of all the resource provided to support various ministries. A most important aspect of this stewardship is to provide a safe environment that protects people as well as property. There is an inherent danger of open flame that can come into contact with flammable material and limitations in the use of open flames is a prudent step in providing the desired safe environment.

Open flames are allowed in the controlled environment of kitchen appliances and gas water heaters and furnaces for heating. Such equipment has built in safety features; however, exposure to flammable material is still a concern and safe practices must be adhered to at all times.

No flammable materials (solids, liquids or gases) shall be stored within four feet of any gas fired heating furnace or hot water heater. Furnaces are typically located in furnace rooms or “closets” and at times these area become “storage” rooms for a variety of items. Such practices are serious safety violations and will not be allowed.

Adequate training must be provided to any one allowed to operate kitchen equipment with open flames. Such training should emphasis the need to keep any paper, cloth, or wood products away from any hot surfaces as well as any open flames.

It should be understood, without statement, that one should never use a flammable solvent in an area with open flames or hot surfaces.

The use of candles (whether wax or butane or other combustible gas) may be used but **ONLY** in a highly controlled environment. Wedding traditions use candles as part of the decoration and in elements of the wedding ceremony itself. Candles used in weddings must be mounted in candelabras and not be carried about from place to place where the open flame could come into contact with flammable materials such as carpet fabric, seat upholstery fabric, or clothing worn by guests or members of the wedding party. All candles used must be of non-drip varieties. (A note of caution is that such candles may be designated as “dripless” which means that they drip less than regular candles but they still do drip.)

At times candles are used as part of table decorations and to create a specific ambience for meals service in the dining areas of the church. Such candles must be protected with glass globes so as to minimize the potential exposure to flammable materials that are likely to be used in the decorating scheme of the table. Caution should be exercised to not allow flammable materials to come near or over the globe that shields the candle.

Multiple small individual votives (whether they are wax with a fixed wick or oil with a floating wick) that are placed further away from the center of the table are strongly discouraged because of the difficulty of maintaining control what materials might come into contact with these ignition sources.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that one should avoid carrying lit candles. Candles should be confined to a stationary non-combustible holder that will collect any dripping wax. Lit candles should not be handled by children.