



## **CANDLES IN CHURCHES**

The National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code 101 (2006 Edition), under Existing Assembly Occupancies, Section 13.7.2 "Open Flame Devices and Pyrotechnics," states "no open flame devices or pyrotechnic device shall be used in any assembly occupancy." Exception No. 3, however, goes on to say: "Open flame devices shall be permitted to be used in the following situations, provided that precautions satisfactory to the authority having jurisdiction are taken to prevent ignition of any combustible material or injury to occupants:

- (a) For ceremonial or religious purposes
- (b) On stages and platforms where part of a performance
- (c) Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and candle flame is protected"

The Appendix to this in A.13.7.3 (3) (a) states "securely supported alter candles in churches that are well separated from any combustible material, are permitted. On the other hand, lighted candles carried by children wearing cotton robes present a hazard too great to be permitted. There are many other situations of intermediate hazard where the authority having jurisdiction will have to exercise judgment."

The authority having jurisdiction in most cases will be the local fire marshal.