

## OPEN FLAMES POLICY

### I. Policy Section

14.0 Risk Management

### II. Policy Subsection

14.12 Open Flames

### III. Policy Statement

This policy is written to provide guidelines for the allowable use of materials producing open flames on Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) campuses or any other controlled work environment.

### IV. Reason for the Policy

This policy is written to clarify Grand Rapids Community College's position related to products such as candles and incense that may cause an undue fire hazard or create work environment discomfort for students and/or employees.

### V. Entities Affected by this Policy

Employees, students, and visitors to the College campus.

### VI. Who Should Read this Policy

Employees, students, and visitors to the College campus.

### VII. Related Documents

11.9 Energy Conservation Policy

### VIII. Contacts

Policy Owner: Executive Director of Facilities  
Executive Director of Financial Services

IX. Definitions

Open flames - devices that create an open flame and increase the risk of fire hazards. The primary examples of these devices are industrial torches, kitchen stoves and ovens, Sterno-type chafing fuel, butane table-side burners, candles or incense burners in the work and office environment.

X. Procedures

- A. The College prohibits the use of open flames in offices, classrooms, or other work environments.
- B. The only exceptions to the above are the following:
  - 1. Use of equipment that causes an open flame such as torches, lab use burners, and kitchen equipment, that is strictly controlled in an academic, hospitality, or maintenance setting.
  - 2. Use of candles for decorative purposes during banquets, receptions, or similar functions at the following locations only:
    - a. Gerald R. Ford Fieldhouse
    - b. Wisner-Bottrall Applied Technology Center
    - c. Student Community Center
    - d. Custer Alumni House
    - e. Leslie E. Tassell MTEC
    - f. Sneden Hall
    - g. Stewart Edward White Hall
    - h. Steven C. Ender Hall
    - i. Spectrum Theater
    - j. Lakeshore Campus
- C. Requests for exceptions must be approved by the Executive Director of Facilities or designee.
- D. When approved, candles used pursuant to this section must adhere to the following requirements:
  - 1. Candles must be housed within a glass jar, a hurricane container, or within other non-flammable containers.
  - 2. Candles must be placed on a non-flammable base.

3. There may be no paper or other flammable material within two (2) feet of the candle (even if the device is in an appropriate container).
4. Candles may not be left unattended while burning.
5. Candles may not generate a scent or fragrance that provides an uncomfortable environment for employees, students, or visitors.
6. If requested, a candle must be extinguished.

XI. Forms

N/A

XII. Effective Date

May 18, 2005

XIII. Policy History

Revised - July 18, 2013 Added Sneden and White Halls to the Procedures Section

Revised - October, 2015

Revised - October, 2019

Revised - October 2023 (revised to clarify areas where policy applies and process relating to exceptions)

XIV. Next Review/Revision Date

October, 2027