

Open Flame

Category: [Facilities]

Policy

Fire code dictates that certain precautions be followed when using an open flame inside our structure. Pioneer Memorial Church maintains a “no open flame” policy in all locations inside its facility. The only exception to this rule is a unity candle, which may be used minimally during a wedding ceremony. In this case, dripless candles must be used. Candles must be lit using a multi-purpose lighter (no matches). Someone must be designated as the Fire Watch during the time the candle is lit, as well as be familiar with response actions to be taken in the event of an uncontrolled flame. For outdoor events, Pioneer defers to Andrews University’s *Fire & Life Safety Policy* (<https://www.andrews.edu/services/safety/docs/4.2-fire-and-life-safety-policy.pdf>).

Fire Watch

Uncontrolled flames are not contained as outlined in the Policy, and may cause damage or harm to persons or property. A Fire Watch is a person whose sole responsibility is to watch for an uncontrolled flame, extinguish it, if it is safe to do so, and notify the appropriate emergency services when unable to contain. If an open flame becomes uncontrolled, the Fire Watch should use a fire extinguisher to put the flame out. If unable to contain the fire, the Fire Watch is responsible to initiate an evacuation of the building and call emergency services (9-1-1).

Policy Voted by: Pioneer Church Board on September 28, 2020