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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

RHODE ISLAND STATE FIRE MARSHAL PROHIBITS THE USE OF SKY LANTERNS

The Rhode Island State Fire Marshal, John Chartier, has declared the use of sky lanterns hazardous and has prohibited their use in the State of Rhode Island.

Sky lanterns, or Kongming Lanterns, are typically small hot air balloons made of paper, with an opening at the bottom, where a small fire burns. The lantern, with the fire still burning, is released and then becomes airborne. The release of burning sky lanterns presents a serious risk of causing unintentional fires and injury. Their use in the State of Rhode Island is thereby prohibited.

The authority for the prohibition of sky lanterns is found in the following Rhode Island Fire Safety Code regulations:

NFPA 1 (2012 edition) 3.3.215 Recreational Fire. The noncommercial burning of materials other than rubbish for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, or similar purposes in which the fuel burned is not contained in an incinerator, a barbecue grill, or a barbecue pit, and the total fuel area is not exceeding 3 ft (0.9 m) in diameter and 2 ft (0.6 m) in height.

NFPA 1 (2012 edition) 10.11.2 The AHJ shall have the authority to prohibit any or all open flames, candles, and open, recreational, and cooking fires or other sources of ignition, or establish special regulations on the use of any form of fire or smoking material where circumstances make such conditions hazardous.

NFPA 1 (2012 edition) 10.11.5.1 Open, recreational, and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished.