

EXHIBIT 4
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HB 248

Latest fire caused by Chinese sky lanterns increases calls for a ban

A family was forced to flee their home after a Chinese sky lantern set fire to their roof, in the latest accident caused by the so-called "floating fireworks".



Chinese lanterns being released into the night sky. Photo: REUTERS

By Louise Gray, Environment Correspondent

6:45AM BST 11 Jul 2011

Anne-Marie Cobb, 40, and her children Samuel, eight, and Amelia, six, were asleep when the lit paper lantern landed on top of their family home.

A fire quickly took hold in the timber frame house, lighting up the insulation in the roof and spreading to within two feet from where the youngest child was sleeping.

Fortunately a neighbour spotted the flames, dialled 999 and helped evacuate the family.

The fire is the latest dangerous incident involving Chinese sky lanterns, which are increasingly released at weddings and other celebrations. Farmers groups and fire service chiefs have urged people to use them with caution.

The ancient Chinese decorations, which are supposed to bring good luck, first became popular in Britain a couple of years ago among tourists who had enjoyed their beauty on holiday to the Far East.

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Exporters started bringing the lanterns to Britain and they are now sold in shops across country for £2 to £5, with more than 100,000 sold last year.

The paper balloons, which can float up to a mile into the air when the candle-like fuel cell is lit, are constructed with metal wire.

The idea is that the fire will go out by the time the lanterns come back to earth, but they often come down when the lantern is still burning.

Brigades across the country have been called out 100 times in the past two years to put out fires caused by the lanterns.

The latest incidence in Trowbridge, Wiltshire sparked fears the lanterns could cause injury in future.

A fire broke out in the extension of the semi-detached house, worth around £200,000. The whole of the wooden extension, used as a conservatory, was destroyed though the damage to the house itself was minimal.

Mrs Cobb said she was lucky no one was hurt when the lantern crashed into the rear of her property.

"It was well alight. I have a fire extinguisher but there was no way I could put it out, it was a big blaze. It's not a good feeling standing watching your house burning.

"I was just thinking how lucky we were. Because it was the rear of the property I don't think anyone else would have seen it," she said.

"I want to say thank you to my neighbours and to the firefighters. It could have been a lot worse and we were very lucky."

Glyn Moody, Trowbridge fire station manager, called on people to be more careful about releasing sky lanterns.

Although there are no restrictions in place in Britain, fire brigades have issued advice on releasing them. They say the lamps should only be released in still conditions and away from any homes or other obstacles. The lamps are only allowed to be released under controlled circumstances in Austria and Germany

"They were extremely lucky. Chinese lanterns are very attractive when flying, but we would urge people to think twice before lighting them in residential areas. there is a real risk."

The National Farmers Union want the lanterns banned after several crops were ruined by fire.

There is also a risk to livestock eating a piece of a lantern's wire frame and rupturing the stomach and both cows and horses have been injured or killed.

Concerns have also been raised by RNLI, which has reported a large increase in the number of call-outs after the lights from lanterns were mistaken for distress flares.

The Aviation industry is also keeping an eye on the situation. East Midlands and Manchester airports have warned against launching Chinese lanterns beneath its flight paths, claiming they could get sucked into plane engines.

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Myrtle Beach fire caused by "Sky Lantern"

southcarolinaradionetwork.com

Myrtle Beach fire caused by "Sky Lantern"

by Michael Brown

The South Carolina Forestry Commission says a fire that burned more than 800 acres of Horry County land was caused by a special type of floating candle lantern. The July 3 fire is completely contained, but continues to burn along the coast in Horry County.

Officials had said last week they could not determine what caused the fire, only that it was "manmade." However, someone called in a tip to the state's arson hotline Monday, saying they saw a lantern go over the clubhouse at a nearby neighborhood, near the spot where the fire started. Officials soon confirmed from another witness that the lantern had gone down in the woods.

Sky Lanterns are paper hot air balloons with a fuel pack in them that are about three feet tall. They can be released into the atmosphere when there is no wind, where they are supposed to rise straight upwards.

The Forestry Commission's law enforcement chief David West said someone may have been celebrating the Fourth of July by releasing several of these lanterns. "As far as I know, we've never had a problem with them," West said, "But, to be honest with you, I've never heard about these things till now.

In fact, investigators had previously dismissed fireworks as a cause because they did not find any debris on the scene, which is usually the case. West said the paper bag and aluminum on the lantern were destroyed in the blaze, "It was in a part of the fire where it smoldered for a good while," he said, "I feel sure it burned that aluminum down to nothing."

He said officials have not yet been able to determine who released the lanterns. Whoever did it may face misdemeanor charges for allowing a fire to spread to another property. West said they could also be open to civil charges.

The fire has consumed 805 acres of land in Myrtle Beach—but that includes the 515 acres firefighters set ablaze in order to contain the fire. It continues to smolder, and briefly flared up earlier this week, although officials say it does not present a risk to any nearby structures.

• 2

[Next Post](#)

[Previous Post](#)

Sports

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- USC gets new defensive line coach from UNC
- Former Clemson star C.J. Spiller is headed to the Pro Bowl
- Forgive and forget: Frank Martin moves on from poor game against Vandy (AUDIO)
- Two names to keep an eye on for the USC defensive line vacancy



California State Fire Marshal
Information Bulletin 12-005

Issued June 8, 2012

SKY LANTERNS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is releasing this bulletin under the authority of Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 13100.1 and 13105 to identify a potential fire safety problem regarding the use of Sky Lanterns that are being sold at various retail establishments in the State of California.

Sky lanterns, airborne paper lanterns that are a tradition found in some cultures, are typically constructed from oiled rice paper on a bamboo frame. The lanterns contain a small candle or fuel cell composed of a waxy flammable material. When lit, the flame heats the air inside the lantern, thus lowering its density causing the lantern to rise into the air. They are known to travel significant distances from the point of release. There is a serious fire and safety hazard associated with sky lanterns, which include the potential to start an unintended fire on or off the property from which they are released. It has been determined by the State Fire Marshal that this product does not fall within the definition of a firework (HSC §12511) or a pyrotechnic device (HSC §12526). However, several pieces of regulation and statute exist that will assist the fire service in regulating the use of this product.

- **Code of Regulations Title 19, Section 3.14** "No person, including but not limited to the State and its political subdivisions, operating any occupancy subject to these regulations shall permit any fire hazard, as defined in this article, to exist on premises under their control, or fail to take immediate action to abate a fire hazard when requested to do so by the enforcing agency." Note: "Fire Hazard" as used in these regulations means any condition, arrangement, or act which will increase, or may cause an increase of, the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service of preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fire; or which may obstruct, delay, or hinder, or may become the cause of obstruction, delay or hindrance to the prevention, suppression, or extinguishment of fire.
- **Health and Safety Code, Section 13001 - Causing Fire, Misdemeanor** Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor who, through careless or negligent action, throws or places any lighted cigarette, cigar, ashes, or other flaming or glowing substance, or any substance or thing which may cause a fire, in any place where it may directly or indirectly start a fire, or who uses or operates a welding torch, tar pot or any other device which may cause a fire who does not clear the inflammable material surrounding the operation or take such other reasonable precautions necessary to insure against the starting and spreading of fire.

- **Health and Safety Code, Section 13009 - Suppression Cost Collectible** (a) Any person (1) who negligently, or in violation of the law, sets a fire, allows a fire to be set, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape onto any public or private property, (2) other than a mortgagee, who, being in actual possession of a structure, fails or refuses to correct, within the time allotted for correction, despite having the right to do so, a fire hazard prohibited by law, for which a public agency properly has issued a notice of violation respecting the hazard, or (3) including a mortgagee, who, having an obligation under other provisions of law to correct a fire hazard prohibited by law, for which a public agency has properly issued a notice of violation respecting the hazard, fails or refuses to correct the hazard within the time allotted for correction, despite having the right to do so, is liable for the fire suppression costs incurred in fighting the fire and for the cost of providing rescue or emergency medical services, and those costs shall be a charge against that person. The charge shall constitute a debt of that person, and is collectible by the person, or by the federal, state, county, public, or private agency, incurring those costs in the same manner as in the case of an obligation under a contract, expressed or implied.
- **Public Resources Code, Section 4421** A person shall not set fire or cause fire to be set to any forest, brush, or other flammable material which is on any land that is not his own, or under his legal control, without the permission of the owner, lessee, or agent of the owner or lessee of the land.
- **Public Resources Code, Section 4435** If any fire originates from the operation or use of any engine, machine, barbecue, incinerator, railroad rolling stock, chimney, or any other device which may kindle a fire, the occurrence of the fire is prima facie evidence of negligence in the maintenance, operation, or use of such engine, machine, barbecue, incinerator, railroad rolling stock, chimney, or other device. If such fire escapes from the place where it originated and it can be determined which person's negligence caused such fire, such person is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Also, there are several sections located in the 2010 California Fire Code Chapter 3 (not adopted by the SFM) that will assist local fire service.

- 302
- 305.5
- 307.1 & 307.7
- 308.1.2, 308.1.6 & 308.1.7

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>

Bucks Free Press

New Year's Eve lanterns cause car fire and tree blaze

11:09am Sunday 1st January 2012

By Neil Phillips

CHINESE flying lanterns caused the car fire which marked Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue's final emergency response of 2011 – and also the tree fire which marked the service's first call-out of 2012.

Firefighters from Gerrards Cross were called to a car fire in Albion Road, Chalfont St Giles, just before midnight. A lantern landed on the road near the car and was blown underneath it by the wind, said the service this morning.

Forty minutes later the same crew was call to a fire in Howards Thicket, Gerrards Cross, where a lantern had become caught up in a tree.

Firefighters are again urging people to take extra care when using these lanterns to celebrate special events.

Flying lanterns – also known as sky lanterns and Chinese lanterns – are usually made of paper, wire and bamboo and contain a lit candle. They can rise to more than 1,000 feet, fly for up to 20 minutes and float for miles before landing.

Chris Bailey, head of Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service's community safety team, said: "You can't control the direction they take or where they will land.

"There is no guarantee that the fuel source will be fully extinguished and cooled when the lantern lands, and that's a real fire hazard."

He said unsuitable locations for flying lanterns included areas near telephone and power lines, areas near standing crops, anywhere near buildings with thatched roofs, areas of dense woodland and areas of heath or bracken.

As well as being a potential fire hazard, the lanterns often contain wire which can kill or injure animals, damage farm machinery or end up in animal feed.

Last year the BFP reported on Lane End farmer Will Lacey's call to ban the lanterns after three of his cows suffered agonising deaths when they digested metal wire from lanterns which landed on the farm.

The lanterns have also tied up a great deal of emergency service time over the years because they are sometimes mistaken for UFOs or distress flares.

Back

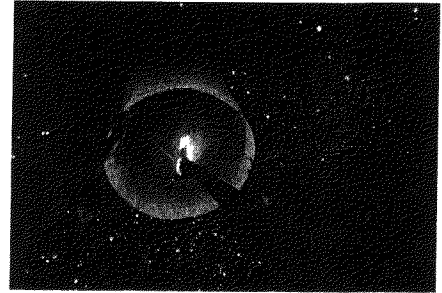


BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Sky Lantern Dangers

Without question, a night sky filled with lanterns can be an awesome sight.

However, based on several recent reports, we want to inform Scout units. Some units requesting to launch sky lanterns have been denied permission by local fire officials or other local authorities. Upon review, the release of a sky lantern also has been determined to conflict with fundamental Scouting safety principles that relate to fire management, in particular the Firem'n Chit certification and Unit Fireguard Chart, both of which require fires to be attended at all times.



Sky lanterns (also known as paper, floating, or Chinese lanterns) are basically a small, unmanned hot-air balloon. The lantern is a wire or bamboo frame with a paper shell. It has a candle or other fuel source in a holder at the bottom of the balloon. The flame creates the hot air that makes the lantern float, and it adds a glow to the lantern as it floats through the air. These can travel up to a mile or more depending upon the local winds and atmospheric conditions.

Sky lanterns are not allowed within many fire jurisdictions and have already been banned in some areas, especially if they have adopted certain portions of the International Fire Code (IFC) within their jurisdiction. The IFC, like Scouting, states that all "recreational fires" must be attended by a person at all times until they are completely extinguished. Since a sky lantern is allowed to float away as the air inside the lantern rises in temperature, the flame inside the sky lantern cannot be constantly attended by a person until it is extinguished. The sky lantern is free to float to wherever the air currents take it. If a sky lantern is caught in a tree or lands on a roof and the fire spreads to whatever it gets caught in, this could turn into a tragic event.

Unfortunately, whoever launches the sky lantern and their chartered organization can be held financially responsible for damages caused. For this reason, the use of sky lanterns should not be a part of any Scouting activity. If you have any questions about how fires should be handled in your area, we suggest Scouts and leaders contact their local fire authority when planning an event.

Lanterns can blow an aircraft sky high, public warned

By EDMUND NGO

edmundngo@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: The authorities have warned the public not to buy or release the banned Kong Ming lanterns as they pose a serious safety risk to aircraft.

State Fire and Rescue Department director Azmi Tamat said the sky lanterns, which are carried by wind, can climb to a height of 1,800m.

"They can be sucked into an aircraft's engines and cause the plane to catch fire and explode in mid-air," he said.

"The combustible materials also pose a danger to buildings, especially wooden houses," Azmi added. Playing with fire: A group of people releasing a sky lantern in Gurney Drive last night.

State police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Wira Ayub Yaakob said those caught defying the ban could be fined and jailed under Section 285 of the Penal Code and Section 5 of the Explosives Act 1957.

If convicted, they can be jailed six months or fined RM2,000 fine under the Penal Code or receive a five-year jail term and RM10,000 fine under the Explosives Act.

On Feb 8, 2003, Penang Inter-national Airport aviation authorities were forced to redirect 12 planes to approach the airport from the south, rather than the north when 10 such lanterns landed on the runway, resulting in them being banned.

A check by The Star over the past two nights at Gurney Drive revealed that the made-in-China lanterns were being sold openly by roadside vendors for RM20 each.

Buyers openly release the large lanterns, fuelled by either wax or kerosene, at the popular seafront nightly.

The sky lantern was developed by ancient Chinese military strategist Zhuge Liang, who was also known as Kong Ming.

The lantern is used as a means to express one's wishes as well as to seek divine help for speedy recovery from sickness, among others.

It has been banned in Singapore and Hong Kong as well.

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Interest Based Ad

Fire dept. wants to ban airborne lanterns and other 'floating fireworks'

BY FRAN SPIELMAN City Hall Reporter fspielman@suntimes.com December 6, 2012 1:52PM

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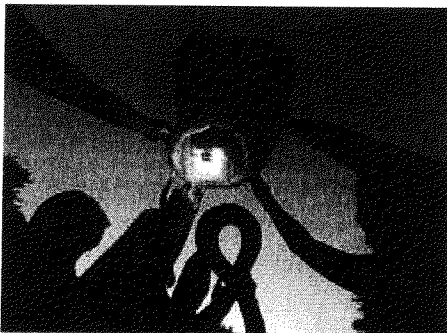
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Chicago may ban sky lanterns like this one. | AP file photo

Updated: January 8, 2013 6:23AM

Chicago would ban the sale of airborne paper lanterns and other "floating fireworks" popular at weddings and graduations, under a crackdown advanced Thursday to avert a "conflagration."

The City Council's Public Safety Committee approved the ban after Deputy Fire Commissioner Richard C. Ford II warned that the miniature hot-air balloons could trigger fires, particularly during current drought conditions.

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Aerial luminaries known as sky lanterns made popular in Asian cultures are supposed to signify good luck. But the open-flame devices sent aloft have proven to be a significant fire hazard.

“What goes up must come down,” Ford told aldermen.

“These products land in trees. They can land on your home, a garage, dry vegetation, on any public street or an expressway. It’s an uncontrolled potential source of conflagration and the risk is too great to be allowed. . . . We’re in a drought situation in Illinois. It’s a huge hazard.”

Ford described the typical sky lantern as three feet wide and three feet tall with a wire frame basket that houses a candle-like “fuel cell.” When lit, hot gas fills the balloon so the device can be released into the air.

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Ideally, the fire goes out before the lantern hits the ground. But Ford said there have been cases around the country and overseas where lit devices have landed and either caused fires or forced motorists to swerve and crash.

The Federal Aviation Administration also has raised concerns.

“They do get high in the air. They can go anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 feet [high], so anything stuck in that pathway — a plane could hit it,” Ford said.

Ald. Matt O’Shea (19th) added, “If that lands in a tree — if that lands on a tile roof, that’s highly flammable.”

Four states — Hawaii, Minnesota, California and Utah — have already banned the sale of sky lanterns, which can be purchased online or at most big-box and retail drug stores.

Some countries — including Austria and Germany — only allow sky lanterns to be released under “controlled circumstances” far from residential areas when there is no wind.

Public Safety Committee Chairman Jim Balcer (11th) asked a city attorney whether Sam’s Club, Walgreens and other retailers would be ordered to take sky lanterns off their shelves.

“I want to make sure that the ones that do have it are told they can’t sell these anymore,” Balcer said.

Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel Vicki Kraft replied, “That would probably be a good idea from an enforcement” standpoint.