



BULLETIN: 2013-3

SUBJECT: Sky Lanterns (Kongming/Wish Lanterns)

REFERENCE: N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, Chapter 3, General Precautions Against Fire

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Sky lanterns are airborne paper lanterns that are constructed of oiled rice paper on a bamboo frame, and contain a small candle or fuel cell composed of a waxy flammable material. When lit, the flame heats the air inside the lantern causing the lantern to rise into the air. They are known to travel significant distances from the point of release.

The increased marketing and use of sky lanterns throughout the country has resulted in unintentional fires caused when the unburned fuel source comes in contact with flammable or combustible materials.

The Division of Fire Safety has determined that the use of these devices does not comply with the requirements in Chapter 3 of the Uniform Fire Code. They create a serious fire and safety hazard that includes the potential to cause an unintended fire either on or off the property of their intended release. Therefore lanterns or other similar airborne devices that use open flame to propel them are prohibited.

The Division is preparing a rule proposal that will specifically address this issue. For now, N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 308.3.2 open flame decorative devices can be cited. These devices do not comply with any of the listed conditions in this section.

This bulletin will remain in effect until withdrawn or replaced. Questions regarding this bulletin are to be directed to the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement at 609-633-6132 or through our website – www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dfs.