

FIRE CODE SAFETY ALERT

Flying Lanterns Pose a Potential Safety Hazard

The Chief Fire Administrator has recently been made aware of the existence of a consumer product that poses a serious fire safety hazard. The Flying Lantern (also known as a sky lantern) is currently being sold by Canadian online distributors of fireworks products and at retail stores.

The product resembles a small paper hot-air balloon, and is fuelled by an open flame. When the fuel source is ignited, the hot air produced by the fuel source can lift the lantern to extreme heights and allows it to drift long distances until the fuel supply is depleted. These lanterns are often released in large numbers to generate an impressive visual effect.

The Chief Fire Administrator has learned that due to their uncontrolled and unpredictable flight path, they can land on trees, building rooftops, or other combustible properties while still ignited and have the potential to cause a fire. There have also been reports of lantern releases near airports causing lengthy flight delays. Concerns regarding the lanterns have resulted in this product being banned in certain parts of Asia.

Sentence 2.4.3.3.(1) of the Alberta Fire Code states “Devices having open flames shall be securely supported in noncombustible holders and shall be located or protected so as to prevent accidental contact of the flame with combustible materials.”

The Chief Fire Administrator has determined that this type of product is governed by Sentence 2.4.3.3.(1) and that the product does not meet the requirements of this section; therefore it is not acceptable for sale or use in Alberta.

Municipal Fire Officials who come across these products being sold or used are requested to advise those involved that this product is not acceptable for sale or use and request that the product be removed from sale and not used.

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For more information, please call 1-866-421-6929 or visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca.
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