

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



Division of Fire Safety
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Table with 5 columns: BULLETIN #, TITLE, DATE ISSUED, SUPERSEDES, RELEASED BY, APPROVED BY, SOURCE, SUPERSEDED BY. Row 1: 2012-02, SKY LANTERNS PROHIBITED, 12/20/2012. Row 2: RBF, JWD, ENGINEERING, NFPA-1.

SKY LANTERNS PROHIBITED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

NH State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan says that Sky Lanterns also known as Kongming Lanterns cannot be released into the air.

The use of sky lanterns in New Hampshire has been steadily growing over the past several years. As a result, there have been incidents where these lanterns have caused injuries and fires. The NH State Fire Marshal, J. William Degnan, has ruled that sky lanterns are a recreational fire as defined by the NH State Fire Code (NH Administrative Rules, Saf-C 6000, NFPA 1:3.3.201)

3.3.201 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. (0.6m) in height. [NFPA 1:3.3.201, 2009 ed.]

State Fire Marshal Degnan further ruled that in accordance with the State Fire Code all recreational fires must be attended at all times pursuant to NFPA 1:10.11.5.1

10.11.5.1 Open, recreational, and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished. [NFPA 1:10.11.5.1, 2009 ed.]

When the lanterns are released into the air, the fire is no longer constantly attended and thereby violating the NH State Fire Code. Sky lanterns may be used if they remain tethered or anchored in some manner. This ruling is in concert with many other states that have also prohibited these devices.



Any questions can be directed to the NH State Fire Marshal's Office at 603-223-4289

