



Ocean City Fire Department

Office of the Fire Marshal

Public Safety Advisory



SKY LANTERNS

The Office of the Fire Marshal is releasing this safety advisory to identify potential fire and safety hazards associated with the use of Sky Lanterns.

What are sky lanterns?

Sky lanterns are airborne paper lanterns that are typically constructed from rice paper with a bamboo frame. The lanterns contain a waxy combustible fuel cell. When the fuel cell is ignited it heats the air inside the sky lantern causing it to rise. They are known to travel significant distances once they are released.

What are the fire / safety hazards?

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. Sky Lanterns also pose a hazard to aviation and vehicular traffic.

Are sky lanterns okay to use in Ocean City?

No! The Ocean City Fire Marshal prohibits the use of sky lanterns and enforces the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Prevention Code 1, 2012 edition, 10.11.2, which states that “all open flames, candles, sky lanterns, and open, recreational...fires or other sources of ignition” are prohibited.” Using sky lanterns within the corporate limits of the Town of Ocean City may result in civil citations being issued up to \$1,000 for each violation.

Should you have any questions regarding sky lanterns or the use of any other recreational fire, please contact the Office of the Fire Marshal at 410-289-8780.

Sample sky lanterns

