



Office of the State Fire Marshal

Sky Lanterns

With the Fourth of July celebrations and other warm weather gatherings approaching, the Office of the State Fire Marshal would like to make sure residents are aware of the state-wide ban on all uses of sky lanterns.

The lanterns, also known as Floating Lanterns, Wishing Lanterns and Celebration Lanterns, are airborne paper lanterns that contain a small candle or fuel cell that when lit, heats the air in the lantern making it rise into the air. They are known to travel up to several miles from where they were originally released.

In popular culture, they are often seen at weddings, dedication ceremonies and other celebrations. Sky Lanterns have been known to cause residential and forest fires, as well as other losses. Sky Lanterns also pose hazards to aviation and vehicular traffic. Because of these fire and safety hazards, The Office of the State Fire Marshal banned the use of Sky Lanterns by placing them on the "Prohibited Consumer Fireworks" list on May 14th, 2013.

For more information on Illinois Fireworks laws, visit the website for the Office of the State Fire Marshal at <http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/Commercial/Pyrotechnics-Fireworks>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Perez", is written in a cursive style.

Matt Perez
State Fire Marshal