



**ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION
4700 Elmore Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 267-4900**



Policy #12-001 OPEN FLAME AERIAL LANTERNS

References: 2009 IFC Section 308.1.1

Aerial lanterns, sometimes referred to as “Wish Lanterns” or are prohibited in the Municipality of Anchorage. These devices are typically ignited and rise into the air as the heat increases inside the paper lantern. Occasionally, they are caught in the wind and ignite structures, trees, shrubs, grass or other combustible waste. Their flight path is unpredictable, and they have been known to cause structure fires when they land on structures before the internal fuel source is expended.

Section 308.1.1 of the 2009 International Fire Code restricts lighting appliances and specifies that they be housed in a “*well secured glass globe and wire mesh cage or other, similar approved device*”; and section 308.1.2 further clarifies that “No person shall throw or placed or cause to be thrown or placed a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, *or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire*”

These items meet that definition and are expressly prohibited in the Municipality of Anchorage. Further, these same code provisions are adopted by the State Fire Marshal and as such, they are also prohibited outside of the Municipality in areas where the State Fire Marshal has jurisdiction.