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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Department

From: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

Date: January 1, 2015

RE: **Sky Lanterns**

In response to concerns regarding the issue of sky lanterns and the dangers they pose, I wanted to make you aware of a provision in the revised Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, which becomes effective January 1, 2015.

Specifically, section **10.11.9.1** now prohibits the use of open flame devices, including sky lanterns, unless a permit issued from the Authority Having Jurisdiction is first obtained. The citation is as follows:

10.11.9.1 Welding torches, tar pots, fire lanterns, and other devices, machines or processes liable to start or cause fire shall not be operated or used in or upon any areas, except by permit from the AHJ.

This violation is also included in the M.G.L. Chapter 148A revised ticket books. A ticket can now be issued for \$100, \$500 or \$1,000 for first, second and third/subsequent offense for violations of this provision.

If you have any questions, please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.