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AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT BAN ON “SKY LANTERNS”

The following information addresses sky lanterns, also known as aerial luminaries, Kongming lanterns, wish lanterns, Chinese lanterns, sky candles or fire balloons.

Sky lanterns are airborne paper lanterns that are a tradition found in some cultures. They are traditionally constructed of various materials, including but not limited to paper or cloth-like material on a frame and contain a small candle or fuel cell composed of a flammable material. When lit, the flame heats the air inside the lantern, thus lowering its density, causing the lantern to rise into the air. They are also known to travel a significant distance from the point of release. There are significant fire and safety hazards associated with sky lanterns, including the potential to start an unintended fire on or off the property from which they are released.

The currently-adopted International Fire Code bans the use of these and similar devices in the City of Aurora.

Per the International Fire Code (IFC):

Section 305.1 requires clearance between ignition sources and combustible material.

Section 305.4, “Deliberate or negligent burning.” It is unlawful to set fire or to cause the burning of combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property.

Section 307.4, “Recreational Fires” and Section 307.5, “Attendance.” Open burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.

Section 308.1.2, “Throwing or placing sources of ignition.” No person shall throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, flaming or glowing substances or objects where it can cause an unwanted fire.

308.1.6.3 Sky lanterns. A person shall not release or cause to be released an untethered sky lantern.

Use of these devices could incur up to a \$1,000.00 fine, liability for property damage, and / or liability for personal injury.

If you have any unanswered questions or concerns, please contact the Aurora Fire Rescue Life Safety Division at 303-326-8999.