



July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

For Immediate Release:

## **Aerial Luminaries or “Sky Lanterns” Prohibited**

Aerial Luminaries, better known as Sky Lanterns, are gaining popularity for weddings, memorial services, and group gatherings. Until very recently, the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Office treated these devices as fireworks, meaning you had to have training, an operator’s display permit, and liability insurance to use them. In the past several months, that interpretation has changed. The State is currently reviewing the regulations and may offer an updated interpretation in the future.

Local fire departments have been advised to refer to sections 305 and 308 of the Oregon Fire Code.

After consulting with Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State Parks, the Newport Fire Chief has decided that Aerial Luminaries shall be prohibited for the duration of the burn season closure. The primary justification is the unpredictable nature of the flight path of these open flame devices, and the risk of wildfire and other risks cited in Sections 305.4, 308.1.2, 308.1.6 of the Oregon Fire Code.

Any questions can be addressed to Interim Fire Chief Rob Murphy or Fire Prevention Officer Chris Rampley .