

Important Tips for Using Fire Safety

Novelty Lighters

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Novelty lighters don't look like typical lighters. They look like everyday objects. And that's what makes them especially dangerous. The shape of these lighters often resemble cartoon characters, vehicles, toys such as footballs or skateboards, animals, food, beverages, or devices such as cell phones or microphones. Some have flashing lights or audio effects. And some are even shaped like fire safety items, such as fire hydrants or extinguishers!



The U.S. Fire Administration believes that it is nearly impossible for a child, and oftentimes an adult, to distinguish between toys and these types of lighters.

We tell our children that lighters are tools for adults only, **not toys for children**. Why undermine that important rule by using a lighter designed to look like a toy?

Novelty lighters are subject to the same requirements for child-resistance in the U.S. (adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Act in 1994) and in Canada (adopted by the Lighter Regulations, enacted in 2008). But many of these lighters do not meet that standard.

The European Commission banned the marketing of novelty lighters starting in March 2007. At least 14 U.S. states have passed legislation banning the sale and distribution of novelty lighters. BIC does not manufacture novelty lighters, and has been an enthusiastic supporter of such legislation since it was first introduced in 2008, when Maine became the first state to ban novelty lighters. Personal possession of a novelty lighter is not a punishable offense, but sale or distribution within these states is.

In practice, though, these bans are difficult to enforce at the point of sale. It's up to consumers to keep such lighters out of circulation.

Avoid Novelty Lighters Like These:

