

SKY LANTERNS – THE DANGERS

Sky lanterns may look pretty, but the frames can kill or harm farm animals, and the candles are a major fire risk to crop fields and buildings.



The NFU continues to call for an outright ban on the sale of sky lanterns and will lobby government until action is taken.

The NFU welcomed the introduction of a sky lanterns code of practice in 2014, but insists they should be banned.



Here are details of how you can get involved, support our call for a ban and help protect the great British countryside.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

SEND A LETTER

Find our sample letters at www.nfuonline.com/BackBritishFarming

Our letter writing guidance notes will help you write to:

- Local council/authority
- Local venues that regularly hold events/weddings
- Your local MP

Drop us an email campaigns@nfu.org.uk to let us know who you've written to.

SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your friends, family and work colleagues how dangerous sky lanterns are.



RISK FREE ALTERNATIVES

We don't want to stop anyone having fun so why don't you suggest they try one of these alternatives?

- Bubbles – there's a lot of choice when it comes to bubble kits from small bubbles to giant bubble makers.
- Plant a tree to create a long lasting memory of your occasion.
- Pop a balloon – put raffle tickets in a few balloons before blowing them up. Get people to pop them rather than release them.

THE RISKS



LITTER NUISANCE – farmers and other land owners have to clear up the remnants of sky lanterns from their fields.



RISK TO ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK – frames can contaminate forage crops which are later fed to the animals. The frames of sky lanterns can cause suffering or even kill farm animals if they are eaten. Animals can get tangled or injured from the sharp wire frames, and bamboo framed lanterns can splinter causing serious injuries if ingested.



MAJOR FIRE RISK – once lit and set off into the sky you don't know where an ignited lantern will land. Fields of standing crops, hay and straw stacks, farm buildings and thatched roofs are all at significant risk of being set alight.



FALSE ALARM – the Coastguard has reported incidents of sky lanterns being mistaken for distress signals, and the Civil Aviation Authority are concerned with airborne lanterns being drawn into aircraft engines. They can also delay take-off and landing.

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