



# Toys or Lighters?

## What is the problem?

Toylike lighters are readily available in places such as gas stations, convenience stores, hardware stores and some craft stores. They are easily mistaken for toys. Both children and adults find them intriguing. Many have lights, visual effects and sound, making them even more attractive to children. Some resemble toys or characters familiar to children such as Gumby, a rubber ducky and Nemo. Toylike lighters put our children and families at risk of burn injury, death and property loss.



## Fast facts

- Over 70 million toylike lighters are imported into the United States annually.
- The European Union banned the sale of toylike lighters as of March 2007. As a result, more of these lighters will likely be redirected for sale to the U.S.

## In Oregon

- For the years 2003-2007, an average of 67 percent of the youth-set fires reported were set using a lighter.
- A home was destroyed by a fire set by a child using a lighter that looked like a horse.
- A mother received third degree burns on her feet when her two and a half year old set the bed on fire with a Christmas tree lighter.
- Two boys set school playground equipment on fire with a fishing pole-shaped lighter.
- Prohibiting the sale of toylike lighters would protect our children and families at risk from burn injury, death and property loss.
- Prohibiting the sale of toylike lighters supports Oregon's benchmark for safe, caring and engaged communities through public safety.



All the "toys" pictured above are actually lighters.

For more information, contact Judy Okulitch, Office Of State Fire Marshal, (503) 373-1540, ext. 230 or go to: [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Novelty\\_Toylike\\_Lighters.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Novelty_Toylike_Lighters.shtml)

**Known Positions on Prohibiting the Sale of Novelty (Toylike) Lighters**  
**Updated January 15, 2009**

**SUPPORT**

**Oregon Fire Departments/Districts/Cities/Boards**

Astoria Fire & Rescue  
Bend Fire & Rescue  
Boring Fire District  
Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue  
Cascade Locks Fire and EMS  
Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue District  
Cove Rural Fire Protection District  
Days Creek Volunteer Fire Department  
Depoe Bay Fire District  
East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District  
Elgin Rural Fire Department  
Gresham Fire and Emergency Services  
Halsey-Sheridan Rural Fire Protection District  
Hermiston Fire District  
Hillsboro Fire Department  
Hoodland Fire District #74  
Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District  
LaGrande Fire Department  
Lakeview Disaster Unit  
Lane Rural Fire and Rescue  
Lebanon Fire District and Board of Directors  
Marion County Fire District #1  
Millington Fire District  
Mosier Fire Department  
Mt Angel Fire District  
Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District  
North Lincoln Fire and Rescue  
Odell Fire District  
Parkdale Rural Fire Protection District  
Portland Fire & Rescue  
Sandy Fire District  
Scio Rural Fire District  
Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District  
Sheridan Fire Department  
Sherman County Emergency Services  
Stanfield Fire District  
Stayton Fire District  
Stayton Volunteer Protection Co # 1  
Sublimity Fire District  
Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District  
Toledo Fire Department  
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue  
Warrenton Fire District  
Williams Rural Fire Protection District  
Yachats Rural Fire Protection District

**Fire Service Associations**

National Volunteer Fire Council  
International Association of Arson Investigators,  
Rogue Valley Chapter  
National Fire Protection Association

National Association of State Fire Marshals  
New York State Fire Service Council  
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association  
Oregon Fire District Directors Association  
Oregon Fire Marshals Association  
Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators  
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council  
Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association  
Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association  
Southwestern Oregon Public Safety Association  
Western Fire Chiefs Association

**Community Groups**

Estacada School District  
Oregon Emergency Medical Services for Children  
Oregon Life Safety Team  
Oregon SAFE KIDS Coalition  
Oregon SAFE KIDS, Washington County  
Oregon State Public Interest Research Group  
Sisters School District

**Hospitals**

Arkansas Children's Burn Center  
Denver Children's Hospital Trauma and Burn Center  
Oregon Burn Center  
San Diego Burn Institute  
The Children's Hospital Assessment and Treatment  
Program, Aurora, CO.

**Oregon Cities Adopting a Ban or Resolution**

City of Rogue River (ban)  
City of Sandy (ban)  
City of Clatskanie (resolution)  
City of Keizer (resolution)

**Individuals**

Robin Wettstein - Head Start Program  
Amy Miles - Head Start Program  
Justen Swager - Head Start Program  
Heather Monti - Head Start Program  
Efemencia Quimbaya - Head Start Program  
Minerva Delgado - Head Start Program  
Sarah Gourde

**OPPOSITION**

No known