

Public Health Issue

- Novelty lighters are fully functioning cigarette lighters that come in many shapes appealing to children.
- These types of products are potentially dangerous to the public’s health and safety. Novelty lighters appear to be harmless toys. It would be difficult for young children and even adults to identify them as lighters. In addition to being a fire safety issue, the lighters also present a potential for childhood lead exposure.
- On September 27, 2013, [legislation](#) was signed banning the distribution and sale of novelty lighters in NYS. However, thousands of lighters have already been sold in NYS and novelty lighters are still available for purchase in 34 states.

Fire Safety Issue

- Novelty lighters have been linked to incidents of fire-related deaths, injuries, and property loss.

Lead Exposure Issue

- Children are known to put objects in their mouths and are very susceptible to the harmful effects of lead. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) tested nine novelty lighters purchased in NYS for the presence of lead.
- All nine lighters (see below) were found to contain lead in the surface paint. Five of the lighters had lead levels in excess of the [Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act](#) limit of 90 parts per million (ppm) (range: 31-8000 ppm).



Lighter Name	Lead Level (ppm)
Frog	8000
Rose	6500
Skate	5500
Giraffe	2480
Cow	250
Silver (Baseball) Bat	100
Astronaut	51
Marker	34
Airplane	31



The NYSDOH is conducting outreach to other states to share these findings and learn of any childhood lead poisoning cases due to novelty lighters.

For more information, contact us at injury@health.ny.gov