



425 East 3rd Street Waterloo, Iowa 50703 (319) 291-4359

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

Do you know what a novelty lighter is? It's one that works like any other lighter, except that it looks like a child's toy. Your local fire department needs your help in a nationwide effort to make novelty lighters unavailable for purchase. You can see the magnitude of the problem by visiting Ebay online and looking at the items listed under "novelty lighter." There are literally hundreds of lighters disguised as toy animals, cell phones, key rings, balls and other colorful items that are attractive to children.

Unfortunately, Ebay is just part of a much bigger problem. Thousands of stores throughout the United States also sell novelty lighters, and this is where we need your help. Please do not purchase novelty lighters or bring them into your home. If you already have novelty lighters, please remove them. Let's protect our children and our community from the dangers created by these unsafe products.

Looking ahead, the ultimate goal of the fire service is to make the sale and distribution of novelty lighters illegal all across the United States. Ten European countries recently banned novelty lighters, and we are working with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to do the same. With your support, we can eliminate the fires and burn injuries that result from kids playing with novelty lighters.

Sincerely,

W. Douglas Carter
Fire Chief, Waterloo Fire Rescue