



*Washington*  
**PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATORS**  
*"Ignite Awareness, Extinguish Risk"*

For Immediate Release:

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**“If it is Predictable, it is Preventable”**  
(Washington Fire Chiefs – Novelty Lighter Legislation)

Washington State is one of the latest in the growing number of states working to ban novelty lighters. These toy-like lighters are often made to resemble motorcycles race cars, animals and cartoon characters and as a result end up in the hands of children. There are no valid reasons that lighters are being manufactured to look like toys. The child resistant cigarette lighter standard is proven to be effective. It is time to take the next step and protect children from lighters that encourage their curiosity, inviting unintentional misuse and placing them and their families at risk. The reason is simple. Fires and burns are one of the most significant causes of unintentional injury and death in Washington State.

The Washington Fire Chiefs and state legislators are working together to prohibit the sale and distribution of these devices. Executive Director, Mike Brown of the Washington Fire Chiefs, says, “If it is predictable, it is preventable”. “We have been fortunate here in Washington State, in that we have not had a child severely injured or die as a result of these devices, as the fire service has seen in Oregon and other states. Do we want to wait until that happens, then work to prevent future incidents? I would hope we all agree that one child’s future is not worth the risk.”

Prohibiting the sale of novelty lighters would protect children from lighters that not only encourage their interest, but place them and their families at risk for burn injury, death and property loss.

The Washington Fire Chiefs, Washington Public Fire Educators, and Harborview Burn Center all endorse this legislation.

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