

CRR POLICY 1340: Luminarias & Farolitos

Created: August 12, 2021 Revised: n/a Effective Date: Immediate
Community Risk Management Division – 928-204-8926



This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of the 2012 IFC.

This guideline has been established to address the use of luminarias & farolitos at public displays. Luminarias & farolitos are of particular religious and cultural significance in the Southwest. Often misused, the term Luminaria has come to represent a small paper lantern in the current social lexicon. Traditionally, the term luminaria was a type of small bonfire, and a farolito is a small paper lantern. For ease of use, we will use the term luminaria in this document as it is applied in the modern language referring to a small paper lantern. No matter its name, it is important to note that any fire that fits the definition of a recreational fire, bonfire, or any other type of fire, shall be treated as such.

Guidelines for Luminarias (farolitos)

- 1) Aerial luminarias or “sky lanterns” are always prohibited in any setting, public or private.
- 2) Luminarias utilizing candles are prohibited:
 - a. During “Red Flag” warnings.
 - b. During periods of staged fire restrictions.
 - c. During periods when winds are forecast to exceed 10-mph.
 - d. At any other time, the Fire Marshal deems it unsafe to ignite them.
- 3) Luminarias may not be placed:
 - a. Within 5-feet of curtains, combustible decorative materials, required exit paths.
 - b. On stairs.
 - c. Within 12-inches of non-combustible walls or well-hydrated, live, natural vegetation.
- 4) Paper bags luminarias shall utilize:
 - a. No less than 2 cups of dry sand for weight in the bottom of the bag with the candle placed into the sand in equidistance from the edges of the bag.
 - b. A votive candle with a burn time of no greater than 4-hours.
 - c. Folding of the top edge of the bag to provide rigidity.
- 5) Luminaria displays at public assemblages require:
 - a. Review and approval through Sedona Fire District Community Risk Reduction Division
 - b. 1 fire watch attendee, each with a minimum rated 2A water fire extinguisher preferred (or 3A 40BC fire extinguisher, or water hose with spray nozzle capable of reaching all points of the display) for every 1,000 luminarias.
- 6) Luminaria arrangements shall not exceed 250 luminarias grouped together and groupings of luminarias shall be separated by not less than 5-feet.
- 7) All luminarias shall be fully extinguished at the conclusion of the event and may not be left to burn out of their own accord.
- 8) Permit applications shall include:
 - a. Name and contact information of event organizer
 - b. Date of the event
 - c. Location of the event
 - d. Proposed layout
 - i. Including distances to exits, structures, decorative materials, vegetation, etc.
 - ii. Number of total luminarias
 - iii. Number and location of proposed fire watch attendees and their method of extinguishment.

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Community Risk Reduction Division
Sedona Fire District
2860 Southwest Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336

928-204-8926

crm@sedonafire.org