

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOVELTY LIGHTERS BANNED IN NEW YORK

FASNY, other fire organizations promoted banning these for many years

October 1, 2013: Governor Cuomo recently signed legislation that banned the sale of novelty lighters in New York State. This legislation had been promoted by many fire organizations, including FASNY, the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, NYPIRG, and other organizations. New York joins 14 other states which have banned these lighters, which look so much like toys that children and even their parents may not realize these are actually lighters.

Many lighters are in shapes that appeal to children- toy cars, animals, guns, and even cartoon characters, many feature "cool" sound effects- often with disastrous results. There have been many incidents of children starting fires and even deaths involving children. Two toddlers in Arkansas died playing with a motorcycle lighter that set their apartment on fire.

The legislation prohibits the sale of these items which were often displayed at convenience stores, hardware and other stores. New York retailers have 90 days to stop selling the novelty lighters. Manufacturers or importers who bring them into the state can face penalties of up to \$10,000 and retailers can be fined up to \$500 for each lighter.