

# Hazards of Chinese lanterns

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To alert villagers to the dangers of setting off Chinese lanterns:



Dry weather has caused the dykes to be tinder dry and vulnerable to catch fire.

On Saturday 2 June was a fire in the evening on one of the dykes near St Bridgets Church ; this was caused by a Chinese lantern. It is fortunate this was noticed by the farmer's wife at the time or it could have been more serious. The fire brigade was called and put it out but the damage is quite extensive.

The dangers of Chinese lanterns are well known. They not only cause fires but also are a danger to livestock [cattle are especially vulnerable]; metal parts can cause internal injuries.

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*Extract from RSPCA website;*

**Chinese (or ‘Sky’) lanterns** consist of a paper-covered wire or bamboo frame and an open flame heat source, which lifts the lantern into the air where it can **float for miles** from the point of release. Once extinguished the lantern **falls back to earth**.

### Chinese lanterns can be dangerous to animals

Lanterns **pose a threat to animals**, as they can cause injury, suffering, and death, through:

- **ingestion,**
- **entanglement,**
- **entrapment.**



When ingested the sharp parts of a Chinese Lantern can tear and puncture an animal’s throat or stomach causing internal bleeding.

Animals can become entangled in fallen lantern frames and suffer from **injury and stress** struggling to get free, or starve to **death**. Marine life is endangered by lanterns falling into the sea.

### Fire risk

Sky lanterns can cause **fires**, which **destroy habitats** and set **animal housing, feed and bedding alight**. They are already been banned in some countries and fire services have **issued warnings** to people over the fire risk following incidents such as the [Smethwick recycling plant](#) fire.

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter/chineselanterns>