

**IM-94-13**

**OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & BUSINESS SERVICES**

**INDEXED MEMO**

Indexed Memo           IM-94-13  
Issued(PD)           May 30, 1980  
  
Issued(IM)           March 21, 1994

SUBJECT:           Disposable Butane Lighters

AFFECTED CODES/

DIRECTIVES:       NONE

(1) PURPOSE:     To inform OR-OSHA personnel of the status of investigations  
                          of butane lighter explosions.

(2) BACKGROUND: Rumors of fatalities and other injuries due to explosion of  
disposable butane lighters continue to be heard. The alleged  
incidents center particularly on welding operations. The January  
1980 issue of the National Safety News (page 38) states that so  
far the reports of deaths have not been substantiated. However,  
some incidents of burns were reported. OSHA has retracted their  
alert on butane lighters after being unable to substantiate two  
alleged serious accidents.

It is apparent that the plastic bodied lighters can be damaged by  
heat and that combustion of portions of the lighter and its fuel  
is possible. (Ref.: RECAP, Vol. 140), March 1980)

(3) ACTION:       Welders and other employees should be advised that butane  
lighters, like other compressed gas containers, should not  
be subjected to temperatures above 1300F, and should not be  
allowed to come in contact with flames or hot objects which  
might damage the lighter and ignite the butane fuel.  
The lack of evidence supporting an association of disposable  
butane lighters with serious injuries must be considered  
when evaluating a situation involving these devices.

2013-ORPDIR