

International Bottled Water Association

NEWS STATEMENT

August 8, 2018

Industry responds to claims that bottled water left in a car exposed to sunlight can start a fire

Alexandria, VA – A viral video being shared on social media warns consumers not to leave bottled water in their cars because sunlight refracted from the bottle could start a fire. The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) and others say this scenario is extremely unlikely, but not impossible.

“There are a number of variables that would have to all come together at once, making this situation extremely rare,” said IBWA Vice President of Education, Science, and Technical Relations Bob Hirst. “These include the angle of the sunlight, the shape and clarity of the bottle, the volume of liquid in the bottle, and the proximity to flammable material.”

Although rare, consumers who are concerned about this happening should place bottled water in a shady part of the car, away from direct sunlight and/or cover up bottles using an item such as a hat, clothing, towel or bag.

For more information about bottled water, visit www.bottledwater.org.

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The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) is the authoritative source of information about all types of bottled waters, including spring, mineral, purified, artesian, and sparkling. Founded in 1958, IBWA's membership includes U.S. and international bottlers, distributors and suppliers. IBWA is committed to working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which regulates bottled water as a packaged food product, to set comprehensive and stringent standards for safe, high-quality bottled water products.

In addition to FDA regulations, IBWA member bottlers must adhere to the IBWA Bottled Water Code of Practice, which mandates additional standards and practices that in some cases are more stringent than federal and state regulations. A key feature of the IBWA Bottled Water Code of Practice is a mandatory annual plant inspection by an independent, third-party organization.

IBWA is proud to be a partner with Keep America Beautiful and a supporter of [Drink Up](#), an initiative of former First Lady Michelle Obama and the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), which encourages Americans to drink more water more often – whether from the tap, a filter, or in a bottle. Choosing water is always the healthy choice.