



Posted On: **March 16, 2011** by **Patrick A. Malone**

## **Reports of eye damage from green laser pointers increase**

Ophthalmologists worldwide are warning that recent cases of teenagers who suffered eye damage after playing with high-powered green laser pointers could be the beginning of a dangerous trend.

“In the hands of children, [they are] a very scary proposition,” said one ophthalmologist.

Meanwhile, other eye doctors interviewed by the New York Times said they were shocked at how easily available high-powered laser pointers are. And, they note,

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pointers 10 to 20 times more powerful than the legal limit set by the Food and Drug Administration are easy to order online. One physician was able to purchase a 100 milliwatt laser – 20 times the legal limit – online for \$28, no questions asked.

Some physicians maintain that the dangers are so acute that even the FDA's five-milliwatt limit is too high. And, in a consumer update in December, the FDA acknowledged that illegal laser pointers were being sold and warned that “a higher-powered laser gives you less time to look away before injury can occur, and as power increases, eye damage may happen in a microsecond.”

Steve Liu, chief executive of Wicked Lasers, said in an interview that the company's products did not violate FDA restrictions because those over the five-milliwatt limit were not called pointers, and that the company's web site clearly states that the lasers are eye and fire hazards. He also said his company would begin offering laser safety lessons to its customers before online checkout.

Laser experts concede that it is virtually impossible to control all the hazardous laser products currently available, and note that any talk of restricting availability would be resisted by the large community of laser enthusiasts, including those who use them professionally (e.g. contractors and astronomers).

Source: [The New York Times](#)

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*Families interested in learning more about our firm's legal services, including legal representation for children who have suffered serious injuries in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia due to medical malpractice, defective products, birth-related trauma or other injuries, may ask questions or send us information about a particular case by phone or email. There is no charge for contacting us regarding your inquiry. An attorney will respond within 24 hours.*

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