Fireworks
Public Display

Approved and Authorized by
Guideline G-15

Fire Marshal / Assistant Chief
Date: January 2014
Public Display of Fireworks

**PURPOSE**

This guideline is intended to provide general guidelines for public displays (fireworks) using pyrotechnic devices and to meet the minimum requirements of California Administrative Code (CAC) Title 19, California Fire Code Chapter 56, and compliance with segments of the Homeland Security Act of 2001.

**SCOPE**

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) has established general guidelines for the use of pyrotechnic devices used for public display. It details those requirements specific to a public display. These requirements insure that minimum life safety procedures and practices are met.

**SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Permit Application**

A. Submit a completed Orange County Fire Authority permit application form to:
OCFA/ Fire Prevention 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA  92620

B. Provide a current copy of the following: Worker’s Compensation, Auto and Liability and Property Damage insurance naming the Orange County Fire Authority, the city in which the event will take place, their officers, agents, employees and servants as additional insured. *(CAC 19)*

C. Provide a current copy of the California State Fire Marshal’s operator’s license and current copy of the operator’s California Driver’s License.

D. Submit a copy of a current California State Fire Marshal’s license for public display.

E. List of all qualified assistants who will work the display.

**Plans**

A. Include with the application a fully dimensioned plot plan that shows location of the display setup and location (with distance) of the firing box from the display. Include any access roads with width shown, hydrants, ingress and egress. Show structures that may be located in or near the firing area. Include the *fallout area based on 100 feet per inch of shell size.*
B. List of fireworks to be discharged, by class, size and amount of each (specify single or multiple break or salute).

C. Letter from sponsor or pyrotechnic company stating that any additional fees will be billed directly by the sponsor.

D. Public displays fired on **private property** must have a letter from the current property owner approving of the event and holding the Orange County Fire Authority and its officer’s harmless damages or liability.

**PUBLIC DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS**

A. Public Displays shall be electrically fired (**CFC 5608.2**).

B. Provide a minimum of two, 2.5 gallon pressurized water extinguishers, currently serviced.

C. Provide a water container for duds or misfired shell.

D. Provide barricades/barriers to keep unauthorized personnel out of the site/fallout area.

E. Mortars are to be in good condition. Base plugs in place, with no splits, bulges in the tubes or bent or frayed muzzles.

F. Operator and assistants located within the fallout area are required to have all the proper safety gear/protective clothing on during the firing of the display and immediately after the display.

G. A test fire utilizing the largest shell (non salute type) permitted in the display shall be conducted (1) hour prior to the display and shall be witnessed by an Orange County Fire Authority Inspector.

H. If mortar racks are used, they shall be stable and secure.

I. Electrically fired shows require that all mortars buried in earth or placed in drums and troughs and shall be nominally spaced 2 feet apart from the sides of the drum or trough.

J. **NO SMOKING** in firing or display areas.

K. During the (electrical) firing, no one is allowed to enter the firing area of the display.

L. Electrically fired shows require that all technicians shall be positioned a minimum of 100 feet from any mortar and positioned so as to be protected from the direct line of fire.
O. A continuity test shall be conducted prior to the test fire.

**EVENT REQUIREMENTS**

Contact the **Orange County Fire Authority @ 714-573-6182** to schedule an inspection. The inspection will include, but is not limited to:

A. Verify licensing of operator and licensed assistants. Verify I.D. and age of all assistants.

B. Inspection/inventory of fireworks shells to be discharged.

C. Inspection of racks to determine proper spacing and bracing.

D. Inspection of mortars used to fire aerial shells.

E. Inspection of ready boxes, etc.