

Orange County Fire Authority

Community Risk Reduction

1 Fire Authority Road, Building A, Irvine, CA. 92602 www.ocfa.org 714-573-6180

Public Fireworks Display (Including Offshore Barges)



Guideline G-15

Serving the Cities of Aliso Viejo • Buena Park • Cypress • Dana Point • Irvine • Laguna Hills • Laguna Niguel • Laguna Woods • Lake Forest • La Palma • Los Alamitos • Mission Viejo • Placentia • Rancho Santa Margarita • San Clemente • San Juan Capistrano • Seal Beach • Santa Ana • Stanton • Tustin • Villa Park • Westminster • Yorba Linda • and Unincorporated Areas of Orange County

Public Display of Fireworks

PURPOSE

This guideline is intended to provide general procedures for public displays (fireworks) using pyrotechnic devices and to meet the minimum requirements of California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, California Fire Code (CFC) Chapter 56, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Section 1123 and comply 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

1. Submit a completed OCFA permit application from OCFA/Fire Prevention – Attention Firework Display Coordinator, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA. 92602
2. Provide a current copy of the following: Worker's Compensation, auto/liability/property damage insurance naming the OCFA, the city in which the event will take place, their officers, agents, employees and servants as additional insured (CCR19)
3. Provide a current copy of the California State Fire Marshal issued pyrotechnic operator's license and current copy of the operator's California driver's license.
4. Submit a copy of a current California State Fire Marshal's license for public display.
5. List of all qualified assistants who will work the display.

Plans

1. 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.**
2. List of fireworks to be discharged, by class, size and amount of each (specify single or multiple break or salute).

3. Letter from sponsor or pyrotechnic company stating that any additional fees will be billed directly by the sponsor.
4. Public displays fired on **private property** must have a letter from the current property owner approving of the event and holding OCFA and its employees harmless to damages or liability.

PUBLIC DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS

1. Public display shall be electrically fired (**CFC 5608.2**).
2. Provide a minimum of two, 2.5 gallon pressurized water extinguishers, currently serviced.
3. Provide a water container for duds or misfired shell(s).
4. Provide barricades/barriers to keep unauthorized personnel out of the site/fallout area.
5. Mortars are to be in good condition. Base plugs in place, with no splits, bulges in the tubes or bent/frayed muzzles.
6. 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 (CCR 19).
7. 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 OCFA inspector, as required by the inspector.
8. If mortar racks are used, they shall be stable and secure.
9. Electrically fired shows require that all mortars buried in earth or placed in drums/troughs shall be nominally spaced 2 feet apart from the sides of the drum/trough.
10. **NO SMOKING** in firing or display areas.
11. 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.
12. A continuity test shall be conducted and witnessed by the OCFA inspector prior to any firing.

EVENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Contact OCFA at 714-527-9475 to schedule an inspection. The inspection will include, but is not limited to:
 - A. Verify licensing of operator and licensed assistants. Verify ID 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 all required safety equipment, fire extinguishers, etc.

Public Fireworks Display on Offshore Barges

PURPOSE (Offshore Barges only)

This section of this guideline is intended to provide general procedures for public displays (fireworks) using pyrotechnic devices and to meet the minimum requirements of California Fire Code (CFC) Chapter 56: *Explosives and Fireworks*, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19/Division 1/Chapter 6: *Fireworks*, Health and Safety Code Division 11/Part 2: *Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Devices*, and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1123: *Fireworks Display*, as required by the United States Coast Guard.

DEFINITION OF OFFSHORE BARGE

Offshore Barge: A large, flat-bottomed vessel, usually intended to be pushed or towed, for transporting freight or passengers. An offshore barge will be considered an offshore vessel used in the open ocean waters. Vessels not used in the open ocean waters may be considered floats and/or platforms regulated by OCFA Public Display guideline G-15.

SCOPE (Offshore Barges only)

OCFA has established general guidelines for the use of pyrotechnic devices on an offshore barge. It details those requirements specific to a public display conducted on an offshore barge. These requirements ensure that minimum life safety procedures and practices are met. Public displays of fireworks from a barge do not require an on-site inspector during the event.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS (Offshore Barges only)

Permit Application

OCFA requires applications for permits for a public display shall be made in writing at least 10 business days prior to the proposed public display (Health and Safety Code 12643).

Submit the following documents to:

Orange County Fire Authority
Community Risk Reduction Department

1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA. 92602

You also have the option to fax documents to 714-368-8836

1. Provide an OCFA Permit Application Form
2. Provide an OSFM Pre-Display Report consisting of sponsor, operator, wholesaler and Importer/Exporter license information and shell types and sizes to be used.
3. Provide proof of insurance (details below).
4. Provide a plot plan (details below).
5. Provide a copy of the operator's California State Fire Marshal's Public Display License and California Driver's License.
6. Provide a list of operator assistants. No person under the age of 18 is permitted in the discharge, display and fallout areas once loading of shells begin.
7. If payment will be made by check or money order, please submit with the application. If payment will be made with credit card, please contact our finance department at 714-573-6342.

INSURANCE (Offshore Barges only)

Acceptability of Insurers: All insurance policies must have a current A Class VII rated by A.M. Best Company. Worker's Compensation from the State Compensation Fund is acceptable to OCFA.

General Insurance: The following basic insurance provisions shall be in place with any vendor or contractor that OCFA contracts with to perform work or provide a service including license agreements for use of property and lease agreements.

1. **General Liability** (including pyrotechnics, operations, products and completed operations): \$1,000,000 combined single limit for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage/\$2,000,000 aggregate
2. **Automobile:** \$1,000,000 each accident; \$1,000,000 uninsured motorist
3. **Professional Liability:** \$1,000,000 each occurrence/\$2,000,000 aggregate
4. **Worker's Compensation:** (required by the State of California and necessary only if the other party to the contract has employees) \$1,000,000 each accident/\$1,000,000 each employee for disease

General liability policy limits shall be per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. If commercial general liability insurance or other form with a general aggregate limit is used, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to the project or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit.

Additional Insured Endorsements: OCFA must be named as an additional insured on the General Liability insurance policy and an Endorsement to that effect must accompany the Certificate of Insurance reflecting the minimum insurance requirements as stated above. The language on the Endorsement should read, "OCFA is an additional insured on the policy for any and all work performed, and the (Company Name) insurance is primary and noncontributing and OCFA's insurance is excess only."

PLOT PLAN (Offshore Barges only)

1. Include with the application a fully dimensioned plot plan showing the fallout area calculated at 100 feet per inch of shell size. The location and distances between the pyrotechnic operator, firing site and the audience. Include any emergency access roads, ingress and egress, overhead obstructions (trees, telephone/electrical lines).
2. Public displays fired on private property must have a letter from the current property owner approving of the event and holding OCFA and its employees harmless from damages or liability.
3. Offshore Barge Displays: In addition to items 1&2 above, include distance between the barge and land, the location and distance between the firing site and firing box, emergency ladder, safety barriers, as well as firing shelter dimensions, construction type, distance to mortars, method of securing to barge, etc.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY Offshore Barge REQUIREMENTS

1. All firework public displays shall be electrically fired and include a fallout area based on 100 feet per inch of shell size.
2. Provide a minimum of two, 2.5 gallon pressurized water extinguishers, currently serviced.
3. Provide barricades/barriers to keep unauthorized personnel out of the site/fallout area.
4. Mortars are to be in good condition. Base plugs in place, with no splits, bulges in the tubes or bent/frayed muzzles that would prevent shells from launching as designed.
5. Operators 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 until the all-clear order is given.
6. All electrically fired pyrotechnic circuits shall be tested with a test device in which the test current is not capable of firing the pyrotechnic device being tested. Firing site shall be cleared of all personnel while continuity testing is underway.

7. A test fire utilizing the largest shell (non-salute type) permitted in the display shall be conducted as required by the inspector, (1) hour prior to the display and to confirm that fallout is within designated areas as needed. *During testing and firing, no one should be allowed to enter the firing area.*
8. **NO SMOKING** in any area where fireworks are handled or stored.
9. All operators and their crews shall be positioned a minimum of 100 feet from any mortar and protected from the direct line of fire.
10. During discharging of shells, operator observes activities to ensure wind and trajectory are adequate and makes adjustment if necessary.
11. Intoxicating liquids, narcotics and controlled substances are prohibited within the area of the firing site and shall not be used by any person handling fireworks or special effects at any time during transportation, set-up, firing or removal.
12. The licensed pyrotechnic operator shall be responsible to account for and retrieve all duds immediately following the display. Unfired shells shall be removed and returned directly to the supplier or stored in a manner approved on permit.
13. The licensed pyrotechnic operator shall file a (1) Verbal report within 24 hours for any incident involving injury or death to public or crew, or for any fire requiring emergency action or response resulting from the firing of the show (2) Written report within 10 working days following any public display directly to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Additional Offshore Barge Display REQUIREMENTS

1. Provide a copy of the current U.S Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection from the Marine Inspector.
2. Only personnel necessary for the safe operation of the fireworks display will be permitted on the barge during the firing of the fireworks. *Spectators are not permitted on the barge at any time.*