



# Clovis Fire Department

## Standard #5.6

### FIRE PERFORMER SAFETY GUIDELINES

This guideline, based on the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 160 shall provide minimum requirements for the protection of property, operators, performers, support personnel, and the viewing audiences where flame effects are used indoors or outdoors.

This guideline shall apply to flame effects for entertainment, exhibition, demonstration, or simulation before an audience, including their design, fabrication, installation, testing, control, operation, and maintenance including, but not limited to the following:

- Use of indoor and outdoor flame effects (including Fire Dance Performances) before an audience
- Design, fabrication, installation, testing, control, operation, and maintenance of equipment, materials, procedures, and systems, used to produce flame effects.
- Rehearsal, videotaping, audio taping, or filming of any television, radio, or movie production if such production is before an audience and includes the use of flame effects
- Rehearsal of any production incorporating flame effects before an audience

#### Definitions

**Flame Effect:** The combustion of flammable solids, liquids, or gases to produce thermal, physical, visual, or audible phenomena before an audience

**Flame Effect Operator:** The single person with overall responsibility for the flame effect operations and safety

**Group I Flame Effects:** An attended, manually controlled flame effect. Examples include hand-held burning torches, flaming batons, flame acts, flaming bowl dances, flaming sword dances and the use of other open flame devices

#### Permits

An application for Single Event Permit along with a plan for the use of flame effects shall be completed and submitted to the Clovis Fire Department Fire Prevention Division at least two (2) weeks prior to the event.

#### Flame Effect Demonstration

A walkthrough and a demonstration of the flame effects at the venue by the operator may be required before the flame effects are approved

#### Standby

When required, the fire department shall provide a standby for performances. The cost of standby personnel shall be the responsibility of the person/group requesting the permit.

## **Use of Flame Effect Materials**

- Fuels with low flash points such as gasoline shall not be used. White gas, rubber cement or similar fuels shall be used
- Smoking shall be prohibited in areas where fuels are present
- Excess fuel shall be stored and transferred outdoors in a safe area
- Only the performer(s) and approved support personnel experienced with the flame effects being used shall be permitted in the area of the flame effect
- Any twirling or swinging device, fire breathing, or other mobile fire shall be kept at least 15 feet from the audience

## **Safety Personnel**

Each event shall require a minimum of two safety personnel. Additional performers may require additional safety designees. Each safety shall have a wet towel and a 2A10BC fire extinguisher with a current Fire Marshal service tag attached. Safeties shall be trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers. Safety personnel shall be responsible for performer assistance, audience control, evacuation procedures, knowing the location of all exits, and having phone communication readily available for the purpose of calling 911 in the event of an emergency.

## **Performer**

The performer(s) shall have the same training as the safeties. If the flame lasts longer than the presentation, a safety should assist with smothering the wicks. Costumes shall be made of non-flammable or fire resistant materials. Never perform or practice while under the influence of any drugs or alcohol.

## **Tools**

The general test of any fire tool is to insure that fire does not accidentally leave control of the user. Attachments should be firm both lit and unlit, and the tool should be able to well withstand the rigors placed on it by the performer.

## **Fuels**

All fuel containers shall be sealed when not in use. A fuel's original retail container is usually the best choice for storage and transport. For loading wicks, sealed metal containers that can limit vapor expansion are acceptable on site. If fuel must be available in the performance area, metal, self-sealing containers are required.

## **Indoor Performances**

When at all possible, place the fuel area outside of the building. Always maintain a clear path from the fuel area to the stage. Never move fire or wet wicks through the audience. The venue shall be checked for fire sprinkler systems and smoke detectors. The performer shall contact the building's engineer to ensure that these systems will not be compromised. The performance area shall be checked for combustible curtains, floorings, ceilings and decorations. Move any hazards at least 15 feet from the performance area.

## **Outdoor Performances**

The area shall be clear of all dry grass, weeds, trees or other combustible materials. Ensure the area overhead is clear of trees or other combustibles. Barricades or other audience control methods shall be in place.

**CLOVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PERFORMER PERMIT APPLICATION**

**Event Information**

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Contact Information**

Event Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Performer Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide a written plan for the use of flame effects.  
I agree to meet the requirements of CFD Standard #5.6.**

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

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\* *For Office Use Only:*

Application Received By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: **Approved / Denied**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_