



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FPB POLICY F-14-11

FLAME EFFECTS BEFORE AN AUDIENCE CFC 308

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide requirements for reasonable protection for viewing audiences and performers of flame effects. This document is also intended to supplement California Fire Code (CFC) Section 308, Open Flames and NFPA 160, Standard for Flame Effects Before an Audience using Group I Flame Effects. This policy was developed in response to a recognized need for a document to provide guidance to operators and performers of flame effects.

II. SCOPE

The provisions of this policy are intended to provide the minimum requirements for flame effects before an audience. This policy does not apply to the use of pyrotechnic compositions.

III. 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 of Group I Flame Effects: hand-held burning torches; flaming batons; flame acts; flaming bowl dances; flaming sword dances; cigarette lighters; candles; matches, and lighting paper in an ashtray.

IV. PERMITS

An Application for Single Event Permit along with a plan for the use of flame effects shall be completed and submitted to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, Special Events Section.

V. FLAME EFFECT DEMONSTRATION

A walkthrough and a demonstration of the flame effects at venue shall be conducted for the Fire Code Official by the operator before the flame effects are approved.

Fire Prevention Bureau

Fire-Rescue Department • 1010 Second Avenue, Suite 300 • San Diego, CA 92101-4903
Tel (619) 533-4400 Fax 544-6806

VI. USE OF FLAME EFFECTS

The flame effect operator shall inspect all areas of the site where flame effect materials and devices are ignited before startup and after shutdown.

Smoking shall be prohibited in the area where fuels used in flame effects are present.

Only performers and support personnel familiar and experienced with the flame effects being used shall be permitted to be in the area of a flame effect.

A standby Fire Safety Officer is required for indoor performances. Fire and life-safety systems that have been interrupted shall be restored immediately after completion of the flame effect.

Any swinging or twirling device, fire breathing, or other mobile fire shall be kept a minimum of **15 feet** from the audience.

Portable flame effects shall be stored and secured when not in use.

VII. SAFETY GUARDS

Performers shall have the same training as the safeties, in addition to their fire training. Each routine should be well time and rehearsed before the performance. If the flame lasts longer than anticipated, a safety should assist with smothering the wicks.

Regular performance costumes shall be made of fire resistant materials, and tested thoroughly before the performance.

No minor under the age of 16 can perform unless the minor is at all times accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years of age or older, has obtained an entertainment work permit issued by the Department of Industrial Relations of the State of California and maintains the permit in his/her possession at the time of the performance.

All flame effects shall be supervised by a flame effects operator that is at least 21 years of age.

Performers shall not perform or practice while under the influence of any substance.

VIII. 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.

IX. 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. Fuel shall not be stored in any means of egress or in other locations prohibited by the CFC.

X. INDOOR SPECIFICS

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.

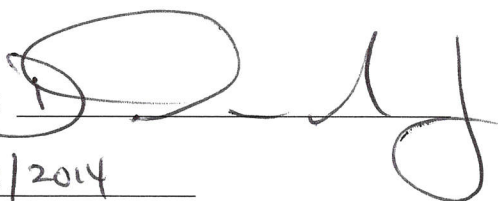
The venue shall be checked for fire sprinkler systems and smoke detectors. The performer shall contact the building's engineer to ensure that these systems will not be compromised.

The performance area shall be checked for combustible curtains, floorings, ceilings and decorations. Move any hazards at least 15 feet from the performance area.

XI. OUTDOOR SPECIFICS

Check the area for combustible grasses and brush. Make sure that there are no trees or other combustible materials immediately adjacent to or above the performance area.

A performer and the performer's equipment may not block or obstruct the free and safe movement of pedestrians.

Promulgated by: 
Date: 11/19/2014