

WASHINGTON DC FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION – GENERAL ORDER



Subject: Pyrotechnics	General Order: 609
Section: Plans and Permits	Date of Issue: October 1 st , 2009
Authority: DCMR 12, Chapter 12H, Section F-107H Fire Prevention Code Supplement	Date of Expiration: Until Removed

I. SCOPE

The information contained in this document is intended for all applicants making application to the DC Fire & EMS Department Fire Prevention Division for pyrotechnics permits.

II. PURPOSE

The intent of this general order is to standardize the process for receiving and processing requests for operational permits for the use and discharge of pyrotechnics.

III. DEFINITIONS

Pyrotechnic-

IV. POLICY

The policy of the Fire Marshal's Office is to handle requests for operational permits for the use of pyrotechnics in the most efficient and courteous manner possible and without delay, while ensuring the safety of the public, sellers, and inspectors and in accordance with all applicable laws, codes and standards.

V. PROCEDURE

Pyrotechnics (1.4g) is sometimes erroneously referred to as fireworks. They are utilized at sporting and public assembly events for effect. They are able to be transported without Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) escort to the shoot site.

A. Indoor and Outdoor Displays (IFC Chapter 33, NFPA 1126)

1. All completed permit applications and a check or money order for the appropriate amount made payable to the DC Treasurer shall be submitted in person in the Fire Marshal's Office. (Note: The application is available in the Fire Marshal's Office and online).

All applications must be submitted 10 business days prior to the event.

2. A plan for the shoot shall be submitted with the application. The plan shall include the following:
 - a. Name of the person, group, or organization sponsoring the production.
 - b. Date and time of day of the production.
 - c. Exact location of the production.
 - d. Name of the person actually in charge of firing the pyrotechnics (i.e., the pyrotechnic operator).
 - e. Number, names, and ages of all assistants who are to be present.
 - f. Qualifications of the pyrotechnic operator.
 - g. Pyrotechnic experience of the operator.
 - h. Confirmation of any applicable state and federal licenses held by the operator or assistant(s).
 - i. Evidence of the insurance carrier or financial responsibility.
Note: All insurance documentation shall be forwarded to the DCFEMS Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for a validity review. Permits will not be issued until certificate of insurance is verified by DCFEMS OAG. This is the purpose for the 10 day application requirement.
 - j. Number and types of pyrotechnic devices and materials to be used, the operator's experience with those devices and effects, and a definition of the general responsibilities of assistants.
 - k. Diagram of the grounds or facilities where the production is to be held. This diagram shall show the point at which the pyrotechnic devices are to be fired, the fallout radius for each pyrotechnic device used in the performance, and the lines behind which the audience shall be restrained.
 - l. Point of on-site assembly of pyrotechnic devices.
 - m. Manner and place of storage of the pyrotechnic materials and devices.
 - n. Material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the pyrotechnic material(s) to be used.
 - o. Certification that the set, scenery, and rigging materials are inherently flame-retardant or have been treated to achieve flame retardancy.
 - p. Certification that all materials worn by performers in the fallout area during use of pyrotechnic effects shall be inherently flame retardant or have been treated to achieve flame retardancy.
3. A check or money order for the appropriate amount made payable to the DC Treasurer.
4. Permits will be issued after a satisfactory site inspection.

Note: All questions relating to pyrotechnics shall be forwarded to:

**District of Columbia
Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department
Fire Prevention Division
1100 4th Street SW Suite E700
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 727-1614**