



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

GUIDELINE A.14 – Fire Performances

A.14.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide minimum requirements for the protection of the viewing audience, performers, operators, support personnel, and property where flame effects are used in the City of Newport Beach.

A.14.2 SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to live flame effects for both indoor and outdoor fire performances before an audience.

A.14.3 Definitions

Fuel Station: An area where performers frequently apply fuel to their fire tools during a performance.

Performance Area: The area or stage where the fire dancer conducts a performance for the audience.

Spinout Zone: An area where performers “spin off” excess fuel from their fire tool after refueling at a fuel station.

A.14.4 Procedure

Complete an application for a special event permit, along with a plan showing the performance area, fuel station, spinout area, required safe distances to the audience, and distances to combustibles. The application must be submitted to the Newport Beach Life Safety Services Division at least two weeks prior to the event.

- **Advance Walkthrough**: When performances are conducted indoors, Life Safety Services personnel must conduct a location walkthrough in advance of the show to determine such factors as clear, well-marked exits, ventilation, fire alarms and sprinkler systems, ceiling height, and other environmental and safety considerations, dependent upon an indoor or outdoor performance.

- **Safe Distances:** The front edge of the performance area shall be at least 15 feet from the audience and the Fuel Station and Spinout Zone must be at least 15 feet from the stage.
- **Fuels:** Fuels with low flash points such as gasoline shall not be used. White gas, 99% pure lamp oil, or similar fuels shall be used.
- **Equipment:** Dip cans, drip pans, and other fueling equipment shall be metal.
- **Safety Team:** The performer shall provide a minimum of two safety team members. Additional performers may require additional safety designees. Each safety team member shall have a wet towel and a minimum 2:A-10:BC fire extinguisher with a current State Fire Marshal service tag attached and each member shall be trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers. Safety team personnel shall be solely responsible for performer assistance, audience control, evacuation procedures, be familiar with the location of all exits, keep unauthorized persons away from fuel station and spinout zone, and have telephone communication readily available for the purpose of calling 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.
- **Performer:** The performer(s) shall have the same training as the safety personnel. If the flame lasts longer than the presentation, safety personnel should assist with smothering the wicks. Costumes shall be made of non-flammable or fire resistant materials.
- **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. If the venue is equipped with fire sprinklers or fire alarms, the performer shall contact the buildings engineer to ensure that these systems will not be compromised. The performance area shall be checked for combustible curtains, floorings, ceilings, and decorations. Any hazards noted shall be moved a minimum of 15 feet from the performance area.
- **Outdoor Performances:** The area shall be cleared a minimum of 15 feet from 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. A wet towel and a minimum 2:A-10:BC fire extinguisher shall be readily available.
- **Fire Personnel Standby:** When required by the fire code official, Life Safety Services shall provide a standby person for performances. The cost of standby personnel shall be the responsibility of the person/group requesting the permit.