

Flower Mound Fire Department FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE

POLICY STATEMENT: *Parades/Floats* *December 2008*



INSPECTION OF FLOAT

The Fire Marshal or his designated representative will conduct an inspection of the float prior to the parade event. Unless special conditions exist, the float will be inspected the day of the event at the designated staging area. Parade entrants are usually requested by the event coordinator to arrive at the staging area a minimum of two (2) hours prior to parade time. Upon arrival, a representative of the float is responsible for checking in with the Fire Marshal. In special situations, the float inspection may be conducted at the preparation or float construction site. Special situations would include floats that have moving mechanical parts, contains special effects or those with extensive decorative materials. These conditions need to be coordinated with the Fire Marshal in advance. The rule here is to contact the Fire Marshal if there is a doubt.

Upon completing the review, an inspection form will be issued and an inspection tag will be secured to the float. No float considered unsafe will be allowed to participate in the event. All lawful orders outlining the rules and regulations for fire safety of the float and, if it is being occupied, the life safety of the occupants shall be followed as directed.

DEFINITIONS

Approved

Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. In this case, "Approved" means that the float has met the requirements as set forth in this policy statement and that reasonable precautions have been taken to reduce or eliminate the possibility of a fire incident. "Approved" shall also mean that the mechanical equipment or decorative materials being used is listed by a recognized testing agency or has been treated to reduce its flammability.

Authority Having Jurisdiction –

The organization, office or individual responsible for reviewing and approving equipment, decorations, installations, or procedures. In this case, the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) shall mean to be the Flower Mound Fire Marshal or his designated representative.

Designated Representative

For purposes of this policy statement, "Designated Representative" shall mean to be a member of the Flower Mound Fire Prevention Office, Flower Mound Fire Department, or Flower Mound Police Department.

Portable Fire Extinguisher

A portable device or cylinder, UL fire rated for class A, B, or C, fires, and containing a fire retardant extinguishing agent that is under pressure, which can be used to expel a powder, liquid, or gas for the purpose of suppressing or extinguishing a free burning or smoldering fire.

Fire Hazard

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Any thing or act which increases or may cause an increase of the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than that customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service regularly engaged in preventing, suppressing, or extinguishing fires.

Flame-Resistant Material

Material that has been modified in its chemical composition by impregnation, coating or has inherent composition that makes the material resistant to ignition and combustion when exposed to a flame or heat source.

Flame Retardant

An approved chemical, chemical compound or mixture which, when applied in an approved manner to any fabric or other material, will render such fabric or material incapable of supporting combustion.

Flammable Material

Material that is readily ignitable from common sources of heat and/or material that will ignite at a temperature of 600 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Listed

Equipment or materials included on a list published by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials, and whose listing states that equipment or materials meets nationally recognized standards and has been tested and found suitable for use in a specific manner.

Parade Float

A unit especially designed or constructed for use in conjunction with a parade or public gathering.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Gasoline powered generators, use of

Consideration shall be given to the use and the placement of power generators so as not to create a fire hazard. Fuel tanks for the power generators should be topped off prior to arrival at the staging area. The storage of portable gas cans on the float is unauthorized.

Open flame devices, candles, sternal, etc.

The use of open flame devices is prohibited.

Decorative Lighting, use of

Lighting and strand decorative fixtures are to be UL approved and rated for outdoor use. Consideration should be given to attachment locations to the float or decorative structure to prevent the possibility of a short occurring or electrical shock. Consideration should also be given to the wattage and type of light fixture and its location to combustible materials.

Smoking

The use of smoking materials on the floats is prohibited.

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Portable Fire Protection

Each float is required, to have readily available, a portable fire extinguisher. The size of the fire extinguisher is dependent on the size of the float. Small floats, those less than 300 square feet in size, require a two and one half (2 ½) pound (1A-10BC rated) dry chemical fire extinguisher.

Decorations

Float decorations can vary based on parade theme and seasonal objectivity. Consideration should be given to the type of materials being used, its placement on float and its flammability. Fire retardant materials should be used where possible. In some cases, a spray on fire retardant application may be necessary to provide for fire protection. Contact the Fire Prevention Office if there is a question concerning the use of decorations.