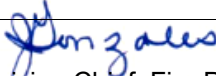


CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER	POLICY	DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Subject:	PARADE / FLOAT REQUIREMENTS	
Reference:	NFPA 1, Section 10.17; IFC 45	
Approved:	 Joseph L. Gonzales, Division Chief, Fire Prevention and Investigation Division	
Number: IFC- 45	Effective Date: March 1, 2009	Page 1 of 5

GENERAL INFORMATION

Denver is the setting for many vibrant parades. Parades are supposed to be fun, festive and carefree events, but the fact is that floats, tow vehicles and crowds can present some serious hazards to those riding or walking in the parade and to observers. Recent severe injuries and deaths in other jurisdictions have prompted the Denver Fire Department to remind you that safety must be the primary consideration for all tow vehicles and floats. Following are the City and County of Denver Fire Department requirements and regulations for parades and floats.

INSPECTION OF FLOATS

Fire Prevention officers 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. Upon arrival, a representative of the float is responsible for checking in with the Fire Department and helping with performing the inspection. 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, contain special effects, or have extensive decorative materials. These conditions need to be coordinated with the Fire Prevention and Investigation Division's Public Assembly office (720-913-3464 or 720-913-33448) in advance. The rule here is to contact the Public Assembly office if there is doubt.

Upon completing the inspection, an inspection report 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. The recent deaths in Louisiana and Colorado that resulted from falls from parade floats reinforce the need for parade float safety.

DEFINITIONS

Approved

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

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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 the City and County of Denver Fire Prevention and Investigation Division personnel assigned to the parade.

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 that can be used to expel a powder, liquid, or gas for the purpose of suppressing or extinguishing a free-burning or smoldering fire. One (1) 2A:10BC portable fire extinguisher is required on each vehicle and float. If an individual is in an enclosed float, there must be one (1) portable fire extinguisher inside and another outside.

The portable fire extinguisher must have a current Denver Fire Department verification of service collar indicating that the extinguisher has been serviced within the past year. The gauge must indicate that the extinguisher has pressure. The extinguisher must be mounted so that it is accessible to the operators. Do not obstruct the extinguisher with decorative materials to hide its location.

Fire Hazard

Any thing or act that 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 meet nationally recognized standards and has been tested and found suitable for use in a specific manner.

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Parade Float

A unit especially designed or constructed for use in conjunction with a parade or public gathering. A float is a decorated platform, either built on a vehicle or towed behind one. The Denver Fire Department recognizes two types of floats—the large, mechanized float and the smaller, non-mechanized push float. Mechanization used in this sense refers to the method used to propel the float along the parade route. The mechanized float will be driven by some type of self-contained engine or will employ a tow unit. The non-mechanized push float will be “driven” by a person or persons walking behind and pushing the unit.

Motorized vehicles, including, but not limited to, regular cars, vans, station wagons, trucks, boats, motorcycles, racing cars, etc., that are of no entertainment value or are not decorated and with no more than two (2) persons occupying the vehicle will not be considered as a float.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Power Needs

You may use battery-operated lights or a generator for your power needs. **NO LIGHTED CANDLES ON PARADE FLOATS OR VEHICLES.**

Portable Generators or Compressors

Consideration shall be given to the use and the placement of power generators so as not to create a fire hazard. Portable generators or compressors used on floats must be securely mounted on a vehicle or other substantial base. A minimum of 12 inches clearance must separate any part of the generator/compressor from combustible fabrication material. 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. Generators/compressors must be equipped with firmly attached exhaust systems that terminate either into a common exhaust servicing the vehicle, or in the same manner as vehicle exhaust. A separate Denver Fire Department fire safety permit is required for each portable generator.

Open Flame Devices—Candles, Sterno, etc.

The use of open flame devices is prohibited.

Decorative Lighting

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 or electrical shock occurring. Consideration should also be given to the wattage and type of light fixture and its location to flammable materials.

Smoking

The use of smoking materials on the float is prohibited.

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Decorations

Fire-resistant, non-combustible, or flame-retardant materials are required for decorations. Please keep packaging and have it on hand for inspection. All decorative materials shall be manufactured or treated to be effectively fire retardant. Water-based paints are acceptable substitutes for flame-resistant paints.

Driver Vision / Communication

Float decorations shall be designed to allow the driver 180 degrees clear vision to the front and sides of the float or tow unit. If 180 degrees vision cannot be provided, a spotter(s) with clear vision of these areas must accompany the float as a guide. Driver shall also have view of (or communication with) float riders in the event of a problem on the float.

Rider Safety

All participants riding on open floats shall have solid sitting arrangement with handholds readily available to them. Any standing participants shall have a stabilized body support with buckled safety belt or other means to prevent falling from unit. No person shall be wired or tied to the float. Secured safety rails (42-inch height minimum railing must be placed to the outside of all rides), barriers, or ropes may be used to prevent a fall from the float. No unsecured riders may be located where they might fall beneath the float, its wheels or between tow vehicle and float (e.g., no seating on rear edge of tow vehicle or on front edge of float). If present, children must be under adult supervision and seated at all times when in motion. Riders are to remain on float once the parade begins and at all times when the float is in motion.

The design of the float should emphasize protection for anyone who will be riding underneath or inside the float during the parade. Issues to consider include:

- Provide emergency exits—access points that can be opened immediately from the inside or the outside without tools.
- Ample ventilation for removal of vehicle and power generator exhaust—exhaust pipes should be in good repair and not discharge in a way that directly exposes any float rider.
- If carbon dioxide extinguishers or dry ice are used for creating “smoke,” drivers and riders must be provided with adequate ventilation and protection from exposure.
- Clear visibility, unrestricted view, and good communication for the driver must be maintained at all times.
- No fireworks or pyrotechnics allowed on any tow vehicle or float without prior approval of the DFD Public Assembly officer.

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- Throwing candy or other objects from a float / vehicle is not allowed as it could cause potential harm to a child. Children don't always look before running out to get a piece of stray candy; they could reach under a float or run in front of a car.

Driver

Float or tow vehicle driver has a valid driver's license and is competent to drive float safely. If you have to back up your parade float, have sufficient personnel to guide the float.

Hold a safety meeting with the float staff well in advance of the beginning of the parade. Be prepared. Identify the hazards and plan your strategy should an unexpected event occur. Identify the location of the portable fire extinguishers and know how to shut off the generator and other electrical equipment. Identify a method to alert the driver to stop the parade float.

Be ready for the Fire Inspector's inspection prior to the beginning of the parade.

END OF DOCUMENT