



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE COMMISSIONER

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PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR FIREWORKS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS THAT UTILIZE PYROTECHNICS FOR TELEVISION, FILM, THEATER, PERFORMANCES AND OTHER VISUAL MEDIA

The City of Philadelphia wishes for the entertainment industry flourish in our great city. We also want to ensure that any production that involves pyrotechnics is conducted in a safe manner in order to protect our citizens, visitors and employees. With that in mind, production staff should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the Philadelphia Fire Code that pertain to the entertainment industry and pyrotechnics.

The purpose of the Philadelphia Fire Code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

Section F-105.7.1 of the 2018 Philadelphia Fire Code requires an Operational Permit for the manufacture, storage, handling, sale or use of any quantity of explosive, explosive material, fireworks, or pyrotechnic special effects. These effects include firing of prop or simulated firearms and the use of squibs. Prior to issuance of that permit by the Department of Licenses and Inspections (L+I), the Philadelphia Fire Department's Fire Code Unit must give approval for the effect. After reviewing the application and granting approval, the Fire Code Unit will forward the permit application to L+I who will then issue the permit.

These approvals are dependent upon compliance with the requirements of the Philadelphia Fire Code, applicable NFPA standards and other provisions the Philadelphia Fire Department has determined are necessary to ensure safety. The Philadelphia Fire Department may also require a demonstration of the pyrotechnic effect(s) prior to final approval.

In order to process the approvals and permits we require that the following information be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the effect. If the effect contains both pyrotechnic and flame effects, the packet may be combined (e.g.: consolidation of safety plan) to cover both effects as long as it addresses the requirements of both.

If you have questions or require other assistance, please contact the Fire Code Unit at 215-686-1356.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREWORKS AND PYROTECHNIC EFFECTS

CHECKLIST

- Completed APPLICATION FOR OPERATIONS PERMIT for fireworks display.
- Certificate of Liability Insurance showing General Liability in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 with the “City of Philadelphia” indicated as an Additionally Insured.
- A check in the amount of \$350 made payable to the “City of Philadelphia”
- Copy of the Shooter’s or Production Company’s City of Philadelphia Business Privilege License.
- If display fireworks are included in the effect, a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Attorney General, Fireworks Displays or Exhibitions Certificate of Registration.
- A copy of the Federal Explosive License/Permit for the special effects company
- Shooter’s curriculum vitae that includes training, licenses, certifications and a list of recent relevant work.
- A completed PFD Pyrotechnician information form (for first time applicants).
- A copy of the shooters state issued ID or Driver’s License.
- A letter that has the following items:
 - A schedule indicating a definitive time when the effects will be used and rain dates.
 - Shot list indicating the devices, products and the amounts being used.
 - A site diagram showing the layout of the effect and/or scene.
 - A safety plan that indicates compliance with the provisions of the Philadelphia Fire Code and relevant Nation Fire Protection Association standards for the effect (i.e.: NFPA 140, 160, 1123 or 1126).
- A letter from the owner of the property granting permission to use the property to perform the effect being applied for.

Packet(s) must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the day of the effect: