

Approved:

Bruce Varner, Fire Chief  
July 1, 2009

# SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU STANDARD



## Parade Float Fire Safety Requirements

### **Purpose**

This standard outlines the general requirements for Parade Floats Fire Safety. Information contained herein applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances.

### **Code References**

Santa Rosa City Code, Chapter 18-44  
Title 19 California Code of Regulations, Section 3.08  
NFPA 1 Section, Section 10.17

### **Permit(s) Required**

A permit is not required for a Parade Float.

### **Attachments**

- 1) Inspection Checklist – Parade Float Fire Safety

### **Required Inspections**

An inspection will be conducted by a Fire Inspector on the morning of the parade to ensure the float conforms to code regulations as outlined in this Standard..

### **Definitions:**

#### **Parade Float:**

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

#### **Decorative Material:**

Title 19, CCR, Section 3.08

Drapes, curtains, drops hangings, wall covering, exterior finish, paper, and all other decorative material that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard shall be treated and maintained in a flame-retardant condition by means of a flame-retardant solution or process approved by the State Fire Marshal

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#### General Requirements:

NFPA 1 Section 10.17

1. Motorized parade floats and towing apparatus shall be provided with a minimum 2A 10BC rated portable fire extinguisher that is readily accessible to the operator.

Title 19, CCR Section 597.1

- This fire extinguisher must have a current State Fire Marshal certification tag indicating that the fire extinguisher has been serviced within the last year.
- The gauge must indicate that the fire extinguisher has operating pressure.
- The fire extinguisher must be mounted so that it is accessible to the operators.
- Do not obstruct the fire extinguisher with decorative material to hide its location.

Title 19, CCR Section 3.08

2. Decorative materials must be non-combustible or inherently flame retardant.
  - If these materials are combustible, they must be "treated" with flame retardant by a State Fire Marshal "Licensed Applicator".
  - Be sure to keep the certificate from the applicator so that you can show it to the Fire Inspector.
3. Open flame devices are prohibited on parade floats.
  - The use of fuel fired torches, candles or similar devices which can ignite the parade float are prohibited.
4. Decorative materials and the parade float structure must be kept clear of the exhaust system of the motorized parade float.
  - Do not let hanging material come in contact with hot exhaust pipes.
5. Portable generators must be used carefully.
  - Do not allow heated exhaust to come in contact with the parade float or material.
  - Do not overload temporary electrical wiring.
  - Secure extension cords properly, do not let them drag on the ground or contact tires or the drive train.
  - Inspect you electrical appliances before energizing the parade float.
6. Never re-fuel a generator while it is operating or while it is still hot.
  - Allow time for the generator to cool prior to re-fueling.
  - Avoid re-fueling by planning ahead and filling the gas tank prior to the event.

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7. Limit the storage of flammable liquids (gasoline) to absolute minimum needed.
  - Store the fuel in an approved fuel container with a self-closing lid equipped with a flash screen in the outlet.
  - Only allow qualified individuals to operate the generator.
8. Be sure that the operator (driver) has a clear field of view.
  - The driver must have a wide field of view to avoid other floats and the crowd.
  - If you have to back up your parade float, have sufficient personnel to guide the float.
9. Hold a safety meeting with the float staff early.
  - Be prepared, identify the hazards and plan your strategy should an unexpected event occur.
  - Identify the location of the fire extinguisher and how to shut off the generator and other electrical equipment.
  - Identify a method to alert the driver to stop the parade float.
10. Be prepared for the inspection on the morning of the parade.

