



OREGON FIRE CODE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

GROUP I FLAME EFFECT DEVICES IN FIRE PERFORMANCES

OFC Reference 308.3, 308.4 (2014), NFPA 160 (2011)

The following are minimum requirements for issuance of a Fire Code Permit for use of Group I flame effect devices in performances or public places. The person responsible for the event shall contact Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (503) 649-8577 at least 48 hours in advance to request a time for inspection and demonstration prior to the event.

Group I flame effect devices are defined as: Hand-held burning torches, burning batons, fire rings, fire poi, fire spinning, cigarette lighters, candles, matches, and other effects that impart the illusion of danger to a performer.

General Permit Conditions:

1. This permit must be posted or immediately available near the performance area. The permit holder agrees to present this permit on request. **Violation of any condition of this permit will result in immediate revocation of the permit and suspension of all activities.**
2. **Written permission from the property owner shall be provided below.** A **certificate of insurance** shall be provided which includes a policy of general liability for bodily injury and property damage, for a minimum of \$500,000.00; and shall include "Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, its officers, agents and employees" as insured. The certificate shall be provided by the group, as a legal entity, or by each participant. *(This requirement may be waived if the performance is held on private property and is not open to the public.)*
3. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to train **all participants** in the operation of fire extinguishers, to make them aware of permit conditions, and to prohibit any unauthorized performances during the course of the event.
4. The flame effect operator shall be responsible for storage, set-up, operations and tear-down of all flame effect materials, devices, equipment, systems and supervision of assistants.
5. **A Flame Effect Plan shall be provided** for approval and remain accessible at the venue. Any modifications to the Flame Effect Plan shall be approved by the Fire Department prior to their use. The plan shall include:
 - a. The name of the person, group, or organization responsible for the performance.
 - b. The name of the flame effect operator.
 - c. The date(s), time(s), and location(s) of the performance.
 - d. A narrative description of the flame effect, flame effect device(s), description of fuel(s) used, and MSDS.
 - e. A site plan showing the following:
 - the location of the flame effects and their sequence
 - the location of any audience(s), seating plan (if any), and types of barricades used
 - clearance to combustibles
 - air for combustion and ventilation (indoor performances only)
 - fuel storage and holding areas, if any
 - fire protection features
 - means of egress
 - f. Emergency response and shut-down procedures.
 - g. Documentation that any combustible materials used for construction of the flame effect have been rendered flame retardant.
6. **No Class I flammable liquids may be used.** Only Class II or III liquids (those with a flash point > 100 F) may be used. All fuel shall be stored in an approved manner, in an approved safety container (original product container, 1-quart metal container, or DOT-certified container)
7. The maximum quantity of flammable flame effect materials stored shall be limited to that quantity used in one day. Quantities in excess of those used in one day shall be permitted to be stored in approved holding areas. Flammable flame effect materials shall be secured or supervised continuously by a trained attendant. **Smoking shall be prohibited in any area where fuels are stored or used.**

8. Flame effect devices shall be designed to be securely attached to the wand or torches and hand. Devices shall be maintained to design specifications and shall be checked prior to every performance to ensure the strength and integrity. **Excess fuel shall be removed in an approved manner prior to lighting the device.**
9. Anyone on stage or participating in the performance shall wear natural fiber or flame retardant clothing, suitable for its exposure to flame effects. Labels or documentation of fire retardant testing shall be provided to the Fire Department upon request.
10. **A minimum of one trained crew member** shall be standing by at all times the flame effect device(s) are lit, with the main purpose of extinguishing the lit device(s) when no longer in use. **A minimum of one additional trained crew member** shall be standing by **with an extinguishing device** as a safety monitor.
11. A minimum of four fire extinguishers shall be readily available in the area, on opposing sides of the performance, consisting of **two pressurized water, Class 2-A extinguishers and two Class 10-BC extinguishers**. Extinguishers must be fully charged and must have been professionally serviced within the last 12 months (for new extinguishers, sales slip indicating date of purchase must be attached). In addition, one 2½-gallon bucket of water and wet towels shall be readily available in the area for the purpose of extinguishing the flame effect device(s). *A charged hose line may be allowed to substitute for the Class 2-A extinguishers.*
12. No person shall use or handle flame effect devices or materials under the influence of intoxicants, controlled substances, or prescription or non-prescription drugs that can impair judgment.
13. The permit holder agrees that, upon request by the Fire Department, a demonstration performance shall be given prior to issuance of the permit, at the permit holder's expense. For performances, a representative of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue must be in attendance when required.
14. The conditions of this permit may not be modified without the prior review and approval of the Fire Department.

Permit Conditions for Indoor Performances:

1. A minimum clear distance of 20 feet shall be maintained between the performers and the audience **at all times**. This distance shall be measured from the farthest reach of the flame effect device while held with the arm fully extended. Distances may be adjusted, subject to site inspection, audience safety, and type of flame effect device.
2. All scenery and decorations within a 25-foot wide radius of the farthest reach of the flame effect device must be flame-retardant in non-Assembly occupancies. All scenery and decorations must be flame-retardant in Assembly occupancies.
3. The Flame effect device shall remain at least 5 feet at its farthest reach from any overhead light rigging. Distances may be increased subject to site inspection and type of flame effect device.
4. Fire protection and life safety systems shall not be permitted to be interrupted during the operation of any flame effect device(s).

Permit Conditions for Outdoor Performances:

1. Performances involving flame effect devices shall not be held when weather is severe enough to influence the safe operation of the flame effect devices.
2. Performances involving flame effect devices shall not be held in outdoor venues where such performances might cause drivers to become distracted in such a way as to cause traffic accidents and/or congestion.
3. A minimum clear area of 20 feet shall be maintained between the performers and the audience **at all times**. This distance shall be measured from the farthest reach of the flame effect device while held with the arm fully extended. Distances may be adjusted, subject to site inspection, audience safety, and type of flame effect device.
4. Combustible decorations, materials, weeds, or dry grass shall not be located within a 25-foot wide radius of the farthest reach of the flame effect device(s).
5. No flame effect device shall reach any closer than 25 feet to any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent a fire from spreading to within 25 feet of any structure.

I have read, understand, and will adhere to the conditions noted above.

Signature of permit holder

Printed name of permit holder

Company or Group Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Event Site: _____

Date of Event: _____ ***** (If this permit is for more than one performance, notification to the Fire Department must be made at least 48 hours prior to each performance.)***

PROPERTY OWNER PERMISSION. I have read and understand the conditions noted above, and I hereby grant permission to the permit holder for use of my property for the above-named performance(s).

Signature of property owner

Printed name of property owner