



Shoreline Fire Department

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Shoreline Fire Department Standard

SHFDS 10.0

Fireworks Display

Affective 11/24/2025

10.0 General

10.1 Scope:

This standard covers the permitting and inspection of permitted commercial fire works displays in the City Shoreline, Kenmore Lake Forest Park and the Town of Woodway as administered by the Fire Marshal. Permitted commercial fireworks displays shall meet the requirements of the currently adopted codes and standards, unless specifically amended or noted otherwise, and as approved by the Fire Code Official (FCO).

Referenced Standards and Codes

1. NFPA 1123
2. The International Fire Code (IFC) as amended by State of Washington and the Cities of Shoreline, Kenmore, and Lake Forest Park Municipal Codes.

10.1.1 Commercial Fireworks Display

1. Commercial fireworks displays are required to be permitted and shall be under the supervision of a Washington State Licensed Pyrotechnician. This individual shall have the sole responsibility of ensuring that safe practices are adhered to and has the authority to stop/prevent any observed unsafe practices and will ensure all codes and safety measures are followed including:
 - a. A safety exclusion zone of 25 feet shall be maintained around fireworks during handling and loading. Unauthorized and non-essential personnel shall be cleared from the safety exclusion zone prior to and during handling and loading of fireworks.
 - b. Traffic cones or barriers shall be positioned so that no vehicles can drive within 50 feet of the staging area when the fireworks are present.
 - c. The firework transport vehicle shall be situated at the site so that it is no closer than 50 feet to any structures or vehicles.
 - d. No smoking within 100 feet of the loading location.
 - e. There shall be no cutting or welding allowed within 250 feet of the fireworks or products.
 - f. At no time shall fireworks be left unattended.
 - g. Unauthorized persons and non-essential personnel shall not be allowed to enter the loading site until the site has been cleared by the pyrotechnic operator.
 - h. No access to the staging/discharge area by unauthorized individual when fireworks are present shall be allowed.

2. Permittee and pyrotechnic operator shall follow all applicable rules and guidelines established in their licensing requirements, this standard, and all other applicable standards and International Fire Code requirements.
3. Approved permits shall be available at the site while any fireworks activity (including set up and display) takes place.
4. Fire Department Standby may be required for the loading, set, discharge, and collection of fireworks explosives.
5. A minimum of one dedicated individual shall be available with a minimum of a 4A:60BC Fire Extinguisher.
6. Packaging:
 - a. Fireworks shall remain in their approved DOT packaging during the barge loading process. Fireworks shall remain in the packaging until the vessel has entered open water.
 - b. Adequate measures shall be taken to prevent packages from becoming wet.
 - c. Defective packages shall not be transferred to the barge:
 1. Leaking, broken, or otherwise defective packaging.
 2. Packages which have been adversely affected by moisture.
 3. Material, which for any reason has deteriorated or undergone a change of condition that increases the hazard.
 4. Materials, or seal of a package of Class 1 (explosive) materials, appear to be damaged.

10.1.2 Commercial Fireworks Display Set-up Requirements

1. Commercial Fireworks Display transport, set up, and discharge shall be completed as required by NFPA 1123 Standards, the currently adopted International Fire Code, city codes and this standard.
2. The following conditions shall be verified prior to discharge:
 - a. Weather conditions (wind and direction. Discharge will be prohibited for winds in excess of 15mph).
 - b. Verify air quality with Puget Sound Clean Air Authority. When conditions are at or above “unhealthy for sensitive populations” public display of fireworks shall be prohibited.
 - c. Verify King County Burn Ban Status. Water based displays may be permitted upon approval of the Fire Marshal. Land Based displays may be approved with conditions from the Fire Marshal.
 - d. Verify isolation zone are met and maintained.
 - e. Fireworks shall discharge shall not continue past 2300 hours (11pm) at any time. Shows that are delayed that will cause discharge past 2300 hours (11pm) are not permitted.
3. The exclusion zone shall be always maintained.
4. Water based displays are required to provide Marine Patrol to enforce the exclusion zone. Verify with Marine Patrol prior to discharge that the area is isolated.
5. Barge based platforms/displays shall have a minimum of two routes maintained off the barge.

6. Safety shelter must have three walls constructed of ¾ inch minimum plywood and a roof when in the exclusion area.
7. Permit must be always onsite and available for inspection by any governing authority. Failure to provide permit documents will invalidate the permit and discharge shall not occur.
8. Provide 4A:60BC fire extinguisher and a designated safety attendant.

10.1.3 Permit requirements

A fire permit is required for all commercial firework displays. Set-up and discharge of fireworks shall not begin until the permit has been issued and inspection has been completed by the Shoreline Fire Department. For permit application, please contact the respective City in which the display is being conducted. A temporary operational fire permit will be issued upon the completion of fire department review.

10.1.4 Permit Submittal Requirements

The following is a list of information required on all submittals for review of Commercial Fireworks Displays. The applicant is required to submit all of the information so an accurate and timely review may be done:

1. Operator shall be at least 21 years old and licensed or approved by Washington State in accordance with any and all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
2. The applicant shall supply all required information including:
 - a. The name, address, email address, and phone number of the individual, group, or organization sponsoring the outdoor fireworks display.
 - b. The name, address, email address, and phone number of the supplier of the fireworks, if different from that of the operator.
 - c. Evidence of financial responsibility by the sponsor of the event or festival and by the operator of the fireworks display. This could take the form of an insurance certificate or other documentation attesting to coverage or responsibility.
 - d. The exact location planned for the outdoor fireworks display including a site plan with the following information
 - i. Location of fireworks storage areas
 - ii. Fallout area, including dimensions
 - iii. North Arrow
 - iv. Likely wind direction
 - v. Location of existing access for emergency access routes
 - e. Confirmation of the license of the operator and the number of assistants who are to be present.
 - f. The approximate number and kinds of fireworks to be discharged.
 - g. The manner and place of storage of such fireworks prior to delivery to the outdoor fireworks display site.
 - h. A diagram of the grounds on which the outdoor fireworks display is to be held, showing the point at which the fireworks are to be discharged; the display site; the approximate distance from mortars to spectator viewing

area; the location and approximate distances of all buildings, highways, and other lines of communication; the lines behind which the audience is to be restrained; the control that will be used to maintain audience separation; and the location of other possible overhead obstructions.

10.1.5 Inspections

Commercial Fireworks Displays shall be inspected by a representative of the Shoreline Fire Department prior to discharge. The following is a list of recommended inspection steps to be performed for display approval.

1. All fireworks, pyrotechnic materials, and launching equipment have been protected from inclement weather and kept dry at all times.
2. Smoking materials, matches, lighters, and open flames have been excluded from within 50 feet of fireworks or pyrotechnics.
3. The display site has been limited to only the personnel necessary to perform the display set up and show.
4. Person who are under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or medication that could adversely affect judgment, mobility, or stability have been excluded from the display site.
5. The operator consulted the sponsor and AHJ in order to locate any buried utility lines at the discharge side if trenches or holes were dug into the ground in order to place mortars.
6. All mortars, mortar racks, bundles, pre-loaded box items, cakes, candles, and ground displays have been thoroughly inspected and deemed inherently stable. Operator confirms that safe handling and loading procedures for all pyrotechnic devices are being used.
7. Larger shells have been preloaded in accordance with NFPA 1123.
8. All operators and assistants are using required personal protective equipment including head, eye, hearing, and foot protection.
9. Cell phones and radio frequency (RF) generating devices have been excluded from the immediate discharge area while electrically-ignited fireworks or pyrotechnic devices are prepared, loaded, or set up.
10. All mortars and racks are made of approved materials and are of sufficient strength, length, and durability to allow shells to be propelled to safe deflagration heights.
11. The operators and assistants will be utilizing only flashlights or other non-incendiary lighting in firing and ready box areas.
12. All assistants are over the age of 18.
13. The sponsor of the display has made provisions for fire protection during the display. The sponsor is responsible for this. The sponsor shall consult with the AHJ to determine the level of fire protection required (NFPA 1123 8.1).
14. Review the site plan and condition of the permit and this standard.
15. If the required separation distances have been decreased, has the AHJ demonstrated that the hazard has been reduced or the risk has been properly protected by additional safety precautions and/or the existence of particularly favorable conditions? (NFPA 1123 5.1.1.1).

16. If unusual or safety-threatening conditions exist, has the AHJ increased the separation distances as necessary. (NFPA 1123 5.1.1.2).
17. Did the AHJ place any restrictions or conditions upon the display and were they written on the permit?
18. The pyrotechnic operator understands the permit, the condition for the show, and understands when the show needs to be stopped due to weather, crowd, or time issues.
19. Fire inspections are required by the Shoreline Fire Department for permitted work. For scheduling an inspection, please email the Shoreline Fire Department at inspections@shorelinefire.com. Response times and scheduling may vary depending on current workloads.