

# WASHINGTON DC FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION – GENERAL ORDER



<b>Subject:</b> Aerial Fireworks	<b>General Order:</b> 613
<b>Section:</b> Plans and Permits Branch	<b>Date of Issue:</b> April 27, 2017
<b>Authority:</b> DCMR 12, Chapter 12H, Section F-107H Fire Prevention Code Supplement	<b>Date of Expiration:</b> Until Removed

### I. SCOPE

The information contained in this document is intended for all applicants making application to the DC Fire & EMS Department Fire Prevention Division for aerial fireworks display permits.

### II. PURPOSE

The intent of this general order is to educate the applicant on the process for handling permit requests for the use of aerial fireworks displays as required by the fire code, section 105.6.

### III. DEFINITIONS

None

### IV. POLICY

The policy of the Fire Marshal's Office is to handle requests for aerial fireworks displays in the most efficient and courteous manner possible and without delay, while ensuring the safety of the public, shooters, and inspectors and in accordance with all applicable laws, codes and standards.

### V. PROCEDURE

The presence of DC Fire & EMS Department Fire Prevention Division representatives at these events is mandatory. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) shall escort all trucks carrying aerial display products (Explosives 1.3g) in the city and must be included in any planning for aerial fireworks displays. The DC Fire & EMS Department Special Operations Division is part of the planning process, as there is a need for fire suppression units to be on site for the shoot.

#### A. Aerial Displays (IFC Chapter 56 and NFPA 1123)

#### **The items below must be submitted for review and approval:**

1. A completed permit application and service request and a check or money order for the appropriate amount made payable to the DC Treasurer should be submitted in person in the Office of the Fire Marshal. (Note: The application is available in the Fire Marshal's Office and online). Visit: [fems.dc.gov](http://fems.dc.gov)

**All applications must be submitted thirty business days (30) prior to the event.**

2. Documentation that the activity is properly permitted through other governmental agencies. (DCRA or other authorizing agency).
3. A plan for the shoot shall be submitted with the application. The plan shall include the following:
  - a. Event plan (scope of work).
  - b. Script (The number and kinds of fireworks to be discharged).
  - c. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
  - d. Site plan, the exact location planned for the outdoor fireworks display (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 location of all buildings, highways and other lines of communication. The lines behind which the audience is to be restrained, and the location of other possible overhead obstructions. (The entire fallout zone)
  - e. Copy of operator's permits/ licenses.
  - f. Insurance certificate. Note: All insurance documentation will be forwarded to the DCFEMS Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for validity review. At no time will any aerial fireworks display permit be issued prior to receiving a returned written response from the DCFEMS OAG verifying certificate of insurance. This is the purpose for the 30 day application requirement.
  - g. Safety plan.
  - h. Operator's resume.
  - i. Product description.
  - j. Letter of intent from the sponsor.
  - k. The date and time of day at which the outdoor fireworks display is to be held, with a proposed rain/wind date and time in the event the display is postponed.
  - l. The name, address, and phone number of the supplier of the fireworks to the operator, if different from that of the operator.
  - m. The termination procedures should contain all of the following information:

- (1) Procedures for inspecting the discharge site and fallout area for any defective or unexploded fireworks.
  - (2) Procedures for disposing of defective fireworks and fireworks materials.
4. A check or money order for the appropriate amount made payable to the DC Treasurer.
5. Permits will be issued after a satisfactory site inspection.

Note: All questions relating to aerial fireworks displays shall be forwarded to:

**District of Columbia  
Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW Suite E700  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 727-1614**