



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

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Division of Fire Safety & Emergency Management

Office of the State Fire Marshal

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**REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF PYROTECHNICS
BEFORE A PROXIMATE AUDIENCE**

Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience

The use of pyrotechnics inside a building or close to an audience is regulated by NFPA 1126, *Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics before a Proximate Audience*, 2001 edition. The use of flame effects is regulated by NFPA 160, *Standard for Flame Effects before an Audience*, 1998 edition. A permit issued by the State Fire Marshal's Office (using form DSFS #79) is required for all pyrotechnic, special effect, and open flame effects.

Section Saf-C 6022.03 of the NH State Fire Code specifies the pyrotechnics permit process. The pyrotechnic operator must complete the form and submit it to the local fire department for review and comment prior to submittal to the State Fire Marshal's Office. A detailed plan must accompany the permit application that shows exactly what is to be displayed. The applicant must also submit proof of insurance, material safety data sheets for the effects used, background information concerning the operator and assistants, and a copy of the facility's current Place of Assembly Permit.

Prior to issuing the permit, personnel from the State Fire Marshal's Office and the local fire department will inspect the display and observe a demonstration of every type of device that is to be used. The local fire chief or the State Fire Marshal may impose special requirements, such as additional fire extinguishers or a uniformed fire detail depending on the circumstances. In most cases, a permit will not be issued in facilities that are not protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system. We strongly encourage local fire chiefs to notify place of assembly operators, community theater groups and school officials of the requirement to obtain a permit for any type of pyrotechnic or flame effect display before a proximate audience.

Pyrotechnic permit forms are available at no charge from the State Fire Marshal's Office, 603-271-3294.