



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



Division of Fire Safety
Office of the State Fire Marshal
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

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Table with 5 columns: BULLETIN #, TITLE, DATE ISSUED, SUPERSEDES, and a sub-table for SUPERSEDED BY (RELEASED BY, APPROVED BY, SOURCE, SUPERSEDED BY).

Informational Bulletin 2017-03
Revisions to Saf-C 5000 Display Fireworks Rules

PURPOSE:

Effective March 6, 2017, the following sections of the "Display Fireworks" administrative rules have been revised as indicated below, all other sections remain as written. (This bulletin also does not address permits, licensing, or storage revisions).

REVISIONS/UPDATE:

The term "Director" has been removed and replaced with the term "Commissioner" throughout the document.

The reference to NFPA 1123, Code for Display Fireworks has been updated to the 2014 edition, and is referenced in Parts 5017, 5023, 5025, 5028.

Saf-C 5017.01 Minimum Distances

(a)(1) The trajectory is at least 25 feet from the nearest above ground electrical, telephone or telegraph line, tree or overhead obstruction, as measured from the perimeter of the mortar rack system to the to the outermost edge of any protrusion or drip line of any object.

(a)(3) At least 200 feet from the nearest building, expect that this distance requirement shall not apply if:

- (a) The building or structure is not an inhabited building per Saf-C 5002.15;
(b) Access to the building is prohibited once the shells arrive on the display site;
(c) Flammable or combustible liquids or gases are not stored in the building;
(d) The building is single story and no greater than 400 square feet;
(e) The requirements of 5017.01 (a)(1) are met;



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(f) The application for display includes written acknowledgement of the building owner, the sponsor of the display, and the fireworks company conducting the display that the building may be exposed to damage from the fireworks display; and

(g) The site plan identifies the distance of the building to discharge site;

(a)(4) At least 250 feet from the nearest tent or canvas shelter, except that this distance requirement shall not apply to open lightweight aluminum framed tent structures used during the active loading of shells into mortars if:

a. The shells are not connected to any firing device; and

b. The tent is disassembled and removed from the display site prior to firing;

(c) Notwithstanding the distance requirements of this section, operators may elect to use plastic sheeting or aluminum foil with a thickness no greater than 6 MIL to cover loaded mortars and shall have a clear view of all such when discharging through such material to ensure that it is not ignited by the discharge. The operator may use a rubber mat that shall be removed prior to firing. Operators using such materials shall have a water type portable fire extinguisher readily available.

Saf-C 5020.05 Mortar Rack Mounting

(4) Strapping or plywood of an equivalent thickness used to secure mortar racks shall be double nailed or screwed at all connecting points;

Dense Pack Firing Racks - Saf-C 5027.01 Scope

(a) This part shall apply to non-motorized vehicle mounted, marine vessel mounted, or ground based dense packs only

(b) Approved dense pack mortar systems may be placed upon the ground. All dense pack firing racks or systems shall have a metal base. The base shall be placed upon the ground to provide a stable base.

Saf-C 5027.02 Approval

(d) Approval shall be granted for a period of 3 years and shall become void upon signs of



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possible fatigue from repeated use, damage from impact, or involvement in a fire, explosion or other type of accident, at which time the dense pack firing rack system shall be placed out of service until inspected by a New Hampshire licensed professional engineer to ensure that the structural integrity of the rack system has not been compromised from damage or the repeated use.

(f) Any dense pack firing rack which has been involved in any type of fire, explosion, or other type of accident shall be immediately placed out of service and the commissioner shall be immediately notified in accordance with Saf-C 5026.

(g) On or before January 1st of each year, anyone utilizing an approved dense pack firing rack shall provide the Commissioner with a written list of all dense pack firing racks or systems that will be utilized for displays throughout the upcoming year. This list shall include all approved dense pack firing racks or systems that have been placed out of service for any reason. All dense pack firing racks or systems shall be identified by the serial number assigned to the rack.

Saf-C 5027.03 Construction

(g) Each dense pack firing rack or system shall be permanently marked with a unique serial number located on 2 exterior sides of the firing rack or system that are clearly visible. The serial number shall identify the company name, year of manufacture, and the shell size with sequential identification number.

(l) Dense pack firing racks utilized for ground-based firing shall be placed on level firm ground.

(m) All dense pack firing racks system construction shall be approved pursuant to Saf-C 5027.02.

Saf-C 5027.04 Restrictions

(a) Dense pack firing racks shall only be fired electronically from a remote location. Firing locations shall be located a minimum of 75 feet from the dense pack portable firing system

(b) Multiple dense pack firing rack systems shall be separated 2 feet or greater from one another at the discharge site.



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- (h) Dense pack racks shall have no greater than 10 chain-fused shells per ignition.
- (i) Dense pack firing racks that are placed on the ground shall be on a firm level surface at the discharge site before any mortar is loaded.
- (j) Dense pack firing racks that are placed on the ground shall be separated by a minimum of 2 feet between racks.

These revisions can also be found on the Fireworks Safety & Enforcement section of our website at the following link:

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/special-operations/fireworks/index.html>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Fireworks Safety & Enforcement Unit at fmo.fireworks@dos.nh.gov or (603) 223-4289.