



CITY OF
SANTA ROSA

Fire Department

955 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Phone: (707) 543-3500
Fax: (707) 543-3520

<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/fd/>

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

SUBJECT: PARADE FLOAT FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Bulletin Number: 019

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Code Reference:

1994 Uniform Fire Code (UFC), Section 1104
Santa Rosa City Code (SRCC), Chapter 18-44
Title 19, CA Code of Regulations, Section 3.08

NOTE: This bulletin is a summary of Fire Department interpretations of City and State Codes. Information contained herein applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances.

DEFINITIONS:

PARADE FLOAT:

Parade float is a unit especially designed or constructed for use in conjunction with a parade or public gathering.

DECORATIVE MATERIAL:

Drapes, curtains, drops, hangings, wall covering, exterior finish, paper, fabric and all other decorative material that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Motorized parade floats and towing apparatus shall be provided with a minimum 2-A, 10-B:C-rated portable fire extinguisher that is readily accessible to the operator.

This fire extinguisher must have a current State Fire Marshal certification tag indicating that the extinguisher has been serviced within the last year. The gauge must indicate that the extinguisher has pressure. The extinguisher must be mounted so that it is accessible to the operators. Do not obstruct the extinguisher with decorative material to hide its location.

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2. Decorative materials must be non-combustible or inherently flame retardant. If these materials are combustible, they must be "treated" flame retardant by a State Fire Marshal "Licensed Applicator." Be sure to keep the certificate from the applicator so that you can show it to the Fire Inspector.
3. Open flame devices are prohibited on parade floats. The use of fuel fired torches, candles or similar devices which can ignite the parade float are prohibited. Fireworks are not permitted to be discharged.
4. Decorative materials and the parade structure must be kept clear of the exhaust system of a motorized parade float. Do not let hanging material come in contact with hot exhaust pipes.
5. Portable generators must be used carefully. Do not allow the heated exhaust to come in contact with the parade float. Do not overload temporary electrical wiring. Secure extension cords properly, do not let them drag on the ground or contact tires or the drive train. Inspect your electrical appliances before energizing the parade float.
6. Never re-fuel a generator while it is operating or while it is still hot. Allow time for the generator to cool prior to re-fueling. Avoid re-fueling by planning ahead and filling the gas tank prior to the event.
7. Limit the storage of flammable liquids (gasoline) to the absolute minimum needed. Store the fuel in an approved fuel container with a self-closing lid equipped with a flash screen in the outlet. Only allow qualified individuals to operate the generator.
8. Be sure that the operator (driver) has a clear field of view. The driver must have a wide field of view to avoid other floats and the crowd. If you have to back-up your parade float, have sufficient personnel to guide the float.
9. Hold a safety meeting with the float staff early. Be prepared, identify the hazards and plan your strategy should an unexpected event occur. Identify the location of the fire extinguisher and how to shut off the generator and other electrical equipment. Identify a method to alert the driver to stop the parade float.
10. Be ready for the Fire Inspector's inspection on the morning of the parade.