

Administrative Rule 3.01.15

SUBJECT: FIRE PERFORMANCE ART	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016
REFERENCES: Seattle Fire Code Ch. 3 NFPA 160, 2011 Edition	SUPERSEDES: NONE – NEW RULE
	FCAB REVIEW DATE: September 15, 2015
NOTICE: Notice: Administrative Rules are established per Seattle Fire Code Section 104.1, and they are subject to the Administrative Sections 104.9 Alternate Materials and Methods, Section 104.8 Modifications, and Section 108.1 Appeals.	APPROVED: _____ JOHN NELSEN, FIRE MARSHAL

Section 1. SCOPE

The purpose of this Administrative Rule is to provide guidelines to advise fire performance venues and artists of safety considerations and practices consistent with fire and life safety codes and public assembly safety concerns.

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this rule the following words and terms have the meanings indicated below:

FIRE PERFORMANCE ART: Any act (fire spinning, fire eating, fire dancing, etc.), in a public or private place, that utilizes fire.

VENUE: The property, facility, building, or room within a building where fire performance art is or will be occurring.

Section 3. GENERAL

This Administrative Rule applies to all acts of fire performance art occurring within the City of Seattle. Fire performance art refers to performances or demonstrations such as fire spinning, fans, art, and fire dancing however pyrotechnics and flame effects are not included.

The business owner, event coordinator and the fire performance artists are responsible for all aspects of fire and life safety.

Failure to possess a current permit and follow the minimum requirements set forth in this document may result in revocation of permit, future permits and/or issuing of citation(s).

Fire performance artists shall be at least 18 years of age.

EXCEPTION: Performers age 16 to 18 may be allowed at the discretion of the Fire Marshal's Office with written consent from a parent or legal guardian. They must be under the direct supervision of an adult fire performance troupe leader or instructor.

In addition, fire performance artists shall have valid Seattle Fire Department (SFD) Fire Performance Art Permit readily accessible at each performance.

It should be recognized that audiences, especially youthful ones, may not fully understand the dangers associated with fire performance art. Every effort should be made to emphasize the safety precautions and dangers of such activity.

Section 4. SAFETY PROCEDURES

The following information is provided for use by fire performance venues and artists:

A **minimum clear area of 15 ft.** between the audience and the performers walking/dancing with **non-static tools (e.g. open flame spinning)** and a **minimum clear area of 4 ft.** when performers walk/dance with **static & semi-static tools (e.g. small finger torch like devices, hula hoop)**. Distance shall be measured from the most far reach point of the device while held with the arm fully extended.

Additional distance or barriers may be required when deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal's Office. The perimeter boundary should be marked and secured. No member of the audience may come in contact with any flame or fuel at any time.

When multiple performers are within a performance area, boundaries must be expanded by 5' from all audience areas or combustible materials.

The use of fire retardant treated materials shall not cause a reduction in required safety distances.

A Fire Performance Art venue's interior space must be protected by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system and have a minimum 12-foot ceiling height. Approval will be dependent upon design, height and materials of the ceiling.

Distances may be reduced by appeal through the Fire Marshal's Office depending upon venue layout or for devices that are not thrown or twirled. Examples would include devices such as fire eating wands and small finger torch type devices. It must be demonstrated that any reduction in distance provides the same level of safety as the original distances above.

Excess fuel shall be removed from devices in an approved manner before they are ignited or used in front of an audience. A "spin out bucket" shall be utilized to spin off any excess fuel from devices when appropriate. A shallow drip pan should be used in the fuel area to prevent runoff of any spilled fuel. If any excess fuel or flame reaches the audience or unintended materials, the performer(s) may be cited and the permit may be revoked.

The clothing of performers and spotters should be snug fitting and made of fire resistant materials or natural fiber such as wool, leather, or cotton. Synthetic clothing shall not be worn. If there is any unintended or inappropriate flame spread during a performance, the performers permit may be revoked and a citation issued.

Smoking shall be prohibited within the boundary of the performance and fuel storage areas.

Section 5. SAFETY PERSONNEL

Two safety personnel shall be designated for each performance, one must maintain the perimeter, and the other's sole function is to act as a "spotter" and provide safety through constant monitoring of the performance, audience, and fuel storage area.

In limited circumstances the number of required safety personnel may be reduced when approved. Example: one performer outdoors with 10 members in the audience may require only one trained spotter.

Spotters should be trained in first aid measures for burns and be knowledgeable in the use of, and have ready access to, fire extinguishers and extinguishing agents. Spotters may be other performers not participating in the current performance.

Additional spotters/safety personnel may be required when:

- There are four or more fire artists performing at the same time.
- There is a large, non-seated audience in attendance.
- Anytime deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal's Office.

Spotters will have direct access to at least one 5-gallon, open-topped bucket of water, minimum $\frac{3}{4}$ full, to cool accidental burns. Additional water buckets may be required, dependent upon the circumstances of the performance and occupancy.

Section 6. EXTINGUISHING AGENTS

At least one 2A-10BC minimum classification fire extinguisher is required in close proximity to each spotter to combat any flammable or combustible liquid fires. Additional fire extinguishers may be required, dependent upon circumstances of the performance and the occupancy.

Each spotter shall have at least one wet cotton towel (minimum size 15" x 24") or a wool or Nomex blanket or Duvetyne readily available to extinguish the fire implement(s). The towel should be white in color to differentiate its use from other towels that might be used to mop up flammable or combustible liquid spills. Colored towels for mopping up flammable or combustible liquids should be stored in a metal container with a tight fitting lid.

Section 7. FIRE IMPLEMENTS

It is recommended that wick material consist of Aramids such as Kevlar or Nomex in combination with fiberglass.

Devices and equipment shall be checked before every performance to ensure strength and integrity. If items are tethered to maintain control from launching into the audience, the tether shall be of non-combustible material in good repair, without fraying or cracking.

Common fire implements include:

- Fire Chain
- Fire Fingers
- Fire Staff
- Fire Wands
- Fire Fans
- Fire Rings
- Fire Stilts
- Fire Art

Section 8. FUELS

Common fuels include:

- Lamp Oil (smokeless/odorless)
- Isoparaffin Oil (Shell Sol T)
- Coleman fuel - "Allume Feu" brand gel fuel
- Kerosene (for outside use only)

Note: No class I flammable liquids (i.e. gasoline, white gas) may be used, only Class II or higher (kerosene grade).

Fuel may be allowed in either the original container with the cap secured in place or in a metal lidded liquid storage container, maximum one (1) gallon on site. Glass containers shall never be used for storage of fuel.

Section 9. PERMITS

Each fire performance artist must obtain an "Individual Fire Performance Art Permit" for each performance location. Permits will be valid for one year from the date of issue.

Once an Individual Fire Performance Art Permit is issued, the artist may call the Fire Marshal's Office Permit Desk at 206-386-1450, or e-mail the Special Events Unit at XXXX@seattle.gov, within 5 days prior to an upcoming performance to add any additional dates to their permit. And submit Fire Performance validation Form.

Each application shall be accompanied by:

- A copy of the performer's photo ID.
- A written letter signed by the property owner or their representative authorizing the fire art performance.
- For outdoor events, the event planner must also sign the authorization letter.

A City of Seattle Special Events permit may also be required if performing in a public space such as outdoor public events including street fairs, or a park or street.

City Special Events permits will clearly indicate:

1. The site address
2. Business name (if applicable)

3. Drawing with measurements outlining the performance area/perimeter
4. Printed name/title of the person signing the letter
5. Current contact information of building owner or their representative.

A permit with up to 10 performers may be obtained by the leader of a fire performance troupe. Each performer must have photo ID on site or, the permit holder may be subject to revocation of the permit and subject to citation.

The permit application for a City Special Events permit must include:

- A site plan of the venue, including:
 - The dimensions of the performance area, seating and equipment layout.
 - Dimensions of the room, aisles, and location of exits.
- A written letter signed by the property owner or their representative authorizing the fire art performance. For public spaces such as a park or street, the authorizing representative is the Department responsible for that space, i.e. Parks & Recreation, Transportation, etc.

Applications must be received 30 calendar days prior to the scheduled performance date to accommodate plan review and a site visit, prior to issuing a permit. Applications received after this deadline may be charged a late fee. The permit will be valid for one year from date of issue.

The permit, approved site plan and this Administrative Rule must be available on site at all performances and shall be presented upon request. Venues shall ensure that performers hold a current "Individual Fire Performance Art Permit".

Venue owners, their representatives, and event coordinators for street fairs or outdoor public gatherings, are responsible to maintain the requirements as outlined in this policy during all fire practice and performance.

Section 9. LIABILITY INSURANCE

The applicant shall maintain continuously on file with the fire code official for the entire period of the licensed or permitted activity, evidence of "Commercial General Liability" ("CGL") insurance coverage with a minimum limit of liability of \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence bodily injury and property damage subject to no deductible. Such evidence of insurance coverage shall be provided on an Acord Certificate of Liability Insurance or equivalent ("Certificate") issued to "Seattle Fire Department, 301 2nd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98104." "The City of Seattle" shall be an additional insured under CGL insurance on a primary and noncontributory basis per ISO Endorsement CG 20 26 or equivalent and a copy of the actual CGL policy provision documenting this must be attached to the Certificate.

The purpose of the requirement is to insure that members of the public and the City will be compensated for losses caused by bodily injury or property damage resulting from the negligent acts of the licensees, permittees, or their agents or employees.

The policy shall be:

1. Issued by a company or companies authorized to do business as an insurer in Washington State pursuant to the provisions of RCW Title 48;
2. Issued for the purpose of complying with the conditions and requirements of Section 105 of the Seattle Fire Code;

3. Canceled only on at least 30 days prior written notice to the fire code official, except 10 days notice cancellation for nonpayment of premium is allowed, or as specified in RCW 48.18.290, if applicable; and
4. Subject to approval as to sufficiency and form by the City's Risk Management Division at the request of the fire code official.

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