



Lake Havasu City Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau

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FD Specification #08
Parade Floats

2018 IFC, Ch. 3, 6 & 9

Rev. 9/01/2021
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PURPOSE

To provide the fire department's safety requirements for operating a parade float.

SCOPE

1. This specification is intended for persons using a parade float for public performance, presentation, spectacle, entertainment, or parade.
2. Each parade float does not require a separate permit, however a parade event (carnival or fair) does. The local Fire Marshal (FM) will conduct an inspection on individual parade floats to ensure compliance with this specification.
3. Parade floats include both marine vessels and vehicles.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Flame retardant** is an approval chemical, chemical compound, or mixture which, when applied in an approved manner to any fabric or other material, will render such fabric or material, incapable of supporting combustion.
2. **Decorative material** includes 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.
3. **Flame-resistant material** is material that has been modified in its chemical composition by impregnation, coating, or has inherent composition that makes the material resistant to ignition and combustion when exposed to a small ignition source.
4. **Parade float** is a unit especially designed or constructed for use in conjunction with a parade or public gathering.

REQUIREMENTS

1. An operational permit is required for each carnival, fair or parade event. [IFC § 105.6.4](#)
2. A fire inspection and approval tag is required for each individual parade float. [IFC § 107.1](#)
3. Decorative material and the parade structure must be kept clear of the exhaust system of a motorized parade float. Ensure that hanging material cannot come in contact with hot exhaust pipes. [IFC § 305.1](#)

4. Open flame devices are prohibited on parade floats unless expressly approved by the FM. The use of fuel fired torches, candles or similar devices, which can ignite a parade float, are prohibited. Fireworks are not permitted on floats. [IFC § 308.1](#)
5. Smoking or carrying of a lighted pipe, cigarette, or other type of smoking paraphernalia or material is strictly prohibited on and around floats. [IFC § 310.2](#)
6. Portable outdoor fuel-fired heating appliances and portable generators must be used carefully and secured to the parade float. Ensure that the heated exhaust and piping cannot come in contact with the parade float. Re-fueling of generators is not permitted. [IFC § 603.4.2.1.3](#)
7. Be sure not to overload temporary electrical wiring. Secure extension cords properly; avoid letting them drag on the ground or contact tires or the drive train. Inspect your electrical appliances before energizing the parade float. [IFC §604.1](#)
8. Motorized parade floats and towing apparatus, including watercraft, must be provided with a minimum **2-A:10-B:C** rated portable fire extinguisher, which is readily accessible to the operator (driver). This fire extinguisher must have a current certification tag indicating that the extinguisher has been serviced within one year. The gauge must indicate that the extinguisher has adequate pressure. Extinguishers must not be obstructed by decorative material, which conceals their locations. [IFC § 906.1-#6](#)
9. Decorative materials should be non-combustible or inherently flame retardant. If these materials are combustible, they must be treated with an approved fire retardant chemical to be flame retardant by an approved applicator. The used chemical container and dated sales receipt must be made available to the FM. Be sure to keep the certificate from the applicator so that you can show it to the FM.
10. Plastic sheeting (Visqueen) and plastic tarps are not recommended on floats.
11. Ensure that that the operator (driver) has a clear field of view in order to avoid other floats, participants, and spectators. Before backing your parade float, have sufficient personnel to safely guide the float.
12. An emergency escape hatch should be provided from the interior driver's compartment in all motorized floats.
13. Be prepared! Identify potential hazards, and plan your strategy should an unexpected event occurs. Know the locations of the fire extinguishers and how to shut off your generator and other electrical equipment. Develop a method to alert the operator to stop the parade float.
14. Prepare for the FM's inspection prior to the beginning of the parade.


REFERENCES

2018 International Fire Code (IFC), Ch. 3 *General Safety Provisions* § 305.1, § 308.1, & § 310.2

2018 IFC, Ch. 6 § 603.4.2.1.3 *Clearance to Combustible Materials*

2018 IFC, Ch. 6 § 604.1 *Abatement of Electrical Hazards*

2018 IFC, Ch. 9 § 906.1-#6 *Portable Fire Extinguishers – Where Required*

APPROVED: 

Scott Hartman, Fire Marshal

DATE: 9/1/2021