



INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Fireworks (Public Display)



Y = Meets Requirements; N= Does Not Meet Requirements; N/A = Not Applicable
2020 Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC), 2018 Edition NFPA 1123

Y N N/A

GENERAL:

- A permit is required for public displays (Minn. Stat. § 624.22 & MSFC 5608.1.1)
- The pyrotechnic operator must be certified by the MN State Fire Marshal (Minn. Stat. § 624.22 & MSFC 5608.1.1)
- Diagram/site plan required showing location of buildings, highways, overhead obstructions, and audience/crowd distances (MSFC 5608.2.1)
- Public assemblage plan can be required – including standby firefighters (MSFC 403.12 & 5608.2)

Y N N/A

FIREWORKS STORAGE AT DISPLAY SITE:

- Fireworks shall not be unattended (MSFC 5608.5.1)
- Fireworks shall be kept dry (MSFC 5608.5.2)
- Shells to be inspected. Damaged, leaking, wet, or torn shells shall not be used (MSFC 5608.5.3)
- Aerial shells to be checked for proper fit into mortars (MSFC 5608.5.3)
- Ready boxes to be used for storage of fireworks and located at least 25 feet from mortars (MSFC 5608.5.5)
- Smoking and open flames are prohibited within 50 ft. of area where fireworks or pyrotechnic materials are present. (NFPA 1123 8.1.6.1)
- NO SMOKING OR OPEN FLAME signs must be conspicuously posted in the area (MSFC 310.3)

Y N N/A

FIREWORKS DISPLAY SITE:

- Minimum required radius of display site shall be 70 ft. per inch of internal mortar diameter of the largest aerial shell to be fired [Ex. A 6" mortar = 420'] (NFPA 1123 5.1.3)
- Discharge site arranged so that the trajectory of aerial shells shall not be within 25 feet of overhead objects or obstructions. (NFPA 1123 5.1.4.7)
- The AHJ (fire official) can order that a display be stopped if weather conditions or poor crowd control become a concern (NFPA 1123 8.1.4.1 and 8.1.4.2)
- Aerial shells greater than 6 inches in diameter shall be preloaded into mortars prior to beginning of display with some exceptions (NFPA 1123 8.2.9.1)
- Aerial shells greater than 6 inches in diameter shall be fired with electrical ignition or other means of remote ignition with some exceptions (NFPA 1123 8.2.9.2.1 and 8.2.9.2.2)
- Only the operator, authorized assistants and inspectors representing the AHJ are permitted to be in the display site while display is in progress (NFPA 1123 8.1.3.2)
- Operators and assistants shall only use flashlights, electrical lighting or other nonincendive illumination such as chemical luminescent devices for illuminating the firing and ready box area (NFPA 1123 8.1.5)
- The radius for ground pieces of low hazard potential shall be at least 75 feet (NFPA 1123 5.1.3.5.1)
- The radius for ground pieces of high hazard potential shall be at least 125 feet (NFPA 1123 5.1.3.5.2)
- Post display inspection and accounting for unexploded devices is required (MSFC 5608.9)

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This checklist is intended as a guide to assist fire inspection personnel in identifying general fire and life safety hazards, other possible code requirements may apply. Please refer to other checklists for information on certain occupancies/topics.

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