



# HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

To: Huntington Beach 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Float Operators

From: Steve Eros, Deputy Fire Marshal

Date: March 14, 2025

**SUBJECT: FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARADE FLOATS**

All parade floats within Huntington Beach must meet the requirements of the California Fire Code as adopted with amendments by the City of Huntington Beach. All floats participating in the parade will be inspected on the morning of the parade to ensure they may be safely operated. The following code sections apply to parade floats:

**Decorative Material**

**17.56.120 CFC Section 325.1 - Decorative Material:** Decorative material on parade floats shall be non-combustible or flame retardant.

If the material is combustible, then it must not be utilized on the float or it must be treated. This includes paper, cotton, poly-cotton, bails of straw, wood or other natural or synthetic fibers.

The fire inspector will ask for documentation that the decorative material upon the float is either non-combustible or certified as flame retardant. Combustible materials may be treated with a flame retardant application that is approved by the California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). This may be accomplished one of two ways:

- **Treatment using OSFM Approved Fire Retardant.** This is typically used for commercially purchased combustible decorations. Parade float operators may obtain State-certified flame retardant in consumer commodity sizes available through outlets including hardware stores and online shopping websites. Verify that the chemical states that it is "Approved and registered by the California State Fire Marshal as flame retardant product" before purchasing. Parade operators shall keep the bottle of flame retardant on the parade float and present to the fire inspector on the day of the parade.

An affidavit certifying that your parade float has been treated by an OSFM approved fire retardant is required. Please fill out and have this affidavit available to present to a Fire Inspector on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

- **Treatment by a Registered Applicant.** This is typically used for professional floats, hay bales, and other large items. Once treated, a copy of the registered flame retardant certificate, describing all materials that are treated, shall be maintained on the float while participating in the parade.

A list of State Certified Applicators who can treat the material and provide the certificate of treatment is available through the State Fire Marshal's GovMotus system.



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- Go to GovMotus <https://calfire.govmotus.org/> and register for an account.
- Once logged in, select from Quick Links "Verify License Status" on the right-hand side.
- Once in the license lookup area, you will use drop-down menus to select "Flame Retardant Program and Fabrics" and "License Category."

An example of a Certificate of Flame Resistance can be found at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-engineering-and-investigations/flame-retardant-chemicals-and-fabrics> under the Information tab.

The fire department recommends that flame certificates be sent in advance of the parade for expedited inspections. Send to the following:

Email: [RSolorzano@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:RSolorzano@surfcity-hb.org)

Mail: Huntington Beach Fire Department  
Attn: Ruben Solorzano  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Fax: (714) 374-1551

- No proof of treatment. If no proof of treatment is provided, the fire inspector may conduct a field test of a sample of any combustible material to check for fire retardant characteristics which will require the inspector to cut a specimen 3 inches by 10 inches long. Failure of the flame test may result in expulsion from the parade.

## Fire Protection

**17.56.120 CFC Section 325.2 - Fire Protection:** Motorized parade floats and towing apparatus shall be provided with a minimum of one 2-A:10-B:C rated portable fire extinguisher readily accessible to the operator.

At a minimum, one **2-A:10-B:C** (or larger) fire extinguisher must be within easy access of the operator of the float. The fire extinguisher must have a CSFM tag that verifies servicing within one year of the inspection. An exception to the CSFM tag is granted if a **new 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher** is purchased within one year of the inspection and has the original receipt attached.



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## Engine Exhaust

**17.56.120 CFC Section 325.3 – Engine Exhaust:** Motorized parade floats shall be provided with an engine exhaust system that is capable of carrying the exhaust product away from any enclosed spaces to the open air.

Exhaust fumes from internal combustion engines must be dispersed into the open air to avoid accumulation of unburned flammable or toxic vapors. The exhaust system must be intact and in good condition to avoid leakage into areas that may not be adequately ventilated. The exhaust must not be in contact with float materials.

If you have any questions regarding parade floats, please contact Ruben Solorzano at (714) 960-8840 or [RSolorzano@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:RSolorzano@surfcity-hb.org).

Sincerely,

*Steve Eros*

Steve Eros  
Deputy Fire Marshal

Enclosure: Parade Float Checklist  
Parade Float – Flame Retardant Certification



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## PARADE FLOAT CHECKLIST

### DECORATIVE MATERIALS

- All materials non-combustible or flame retardant?
  - Retain proof that the material is flame retardant treated (e.g., keep original packaging showing statement that it is fire retardant)
- Are all combustible items treated with flame retardant?
  - Option 1: Treat with California OSFM-approved state-certified flame retardant spray
  - Option 2: Treat by a state-certified applicator; recommend certificate sent to HBFD prior to parade for expedited inspection.
  - Option 3: Treat with a flame-retardant material that meets California OSFM flame retardant standard. **Sign affidavit that all combustible items have been treated.**

*Note: Failure to meet the flame-retardant criteria will result in a field flame test in which the inspector will cut a 3 inch by 10 inch piece of material. Failure to meet the field flame test may result in expulsion from the parade.*

### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Minimum of one 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher in ready access of the float operator?

Note: Size of the extinguisher can be verified on the extinguisher packaging and/or the extinguisher will have the marking stating 2-A:10-B:C
- Are extinguishers serviced within one year – **or** – the original receipt taped to extinguisher?

### ENGINE EXHAUST

- Exhaust to open air?
- Exhaust in good condition?
- Exhaust (including all hot parts of the exhaust system) not in contact with float material?



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## PARADE FLOAT – FLAME RETARDANT

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible party: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemical Application: \_\_\_\_\_  OSFM Approved\*

Manufactured by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Items Treated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### FLAME RETARDANT APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has complied with the fire retardant

Name of Organization

requirements for parade floats in the City of Huntington Beach as described above. I certify that all combustible components have been treated in accordance with label instructions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Maintain a copy of this affidavit on the day of the parade.*

\* A list of flame retardant chemicals approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal is available online at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/pdf/flameretardant/chemical/ChemicalList.pdf>