



DC Fire & EMS Office of the Fire Marshal Firework Inspection Procedures



Each year, the District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department's Office of the Fire Marshal is responsible for ensuring that the city has a safe July 4th season. This is primarily done through the promulgation of an effective fireworks inspection and enforcement program.

Listed below, are the most common items that the fire inspector is seeking when a visit is made to the business establishment that houses fireworks during the permit inspection process:

Fireworks Retail Temporary Stands:

Inspectors will inspect fireworks temporary stands for the following:

- Fireworks retailer's license issued by DCRA.
- Permit required by the DC Fire Marshals Office.
- Ensure fireworks are only being sold from the approved location (Fixed).
- Inspect fireworks and records (invoices) of purchases; they must correspond with products that are present (Vendors commonly Hide illegal fireworks in these packages.)
- Ensure approved "NO SMOKING" signs are posted.
- Ensure an approved and properly maintained fire extinguisher is installed. (Minimum rating of 2A10B:C).
- Fireworks stands shall be erected so they don't impede egress from any building.
- Fireworks stands shall be erected at least fifty feet (50') from any gasoline fill line, vent line or pump dispensers.
- If an electrical generator is used for lighting, it shall be refilled at least fifty feet (50') from the fireworks stand and other structures. Spare containers of fuel shall not be stored on site.

Fireworks supplies will be inspected to ensure that only approved fireworks are being sold and to ensure that the fuses of all products are tapped and properly secured.

Fireworks Retailers Stores:

Inspectors will inspect stores for the following:

- Fireworks retailer's license issued by DCRA.
- Permit required by the DC Fire Marshals Office.
- Approved "NO SMOKING" signs shall be posted near fireworks displays and storage areas.
- Ensure that approved portable fire extinguisher is installed and located within ten feet of fireworks displays and storage areas (Minimum rating of 2A10BC).
- Fireworks storage shall be separated from other combustible materials.
- Fireworks storage rooms shall have a proper placard.

- Fireworks displays and storage shall not be located near heat sources such as furnaces, hot water heaters, etc.
- Fire protection systems shall be inspected to ensure they are in service and properly maintained.
- Egress areas shall be inspected to ensure they are unobstructed, exit doors are operable and properly maintained and exit signs are illuminated and in good repair.
- The structure shall be inspected for proper housekeeping and general fire hazards.

Fireworks supplies will be inspected to ensure that only approved fireworks are being sold and to ensure that the fuses of all products are tapped and properly secured.

Fireworks wholesalers having a warehouse or depot located within the District of Columbia:

The inspector will inspect the warehouse or depots to ensure the following requirement of the Fire Prevention Code are adhered to:

- A wholesaler's license has been issued by DCRA to sell fireworks.
- The fire protection and detection systems will be inspected to ensure they are in service and being properly maintained.
- The facilities will be inspected to ensure that they are not obstructed, exit doors are operating and properly maintained and exit signs are illuminated and in good repair.
- Approved "NO SMOKING" signs are posted.
- Approved portable fire extinguishers (Minimum rating of 2A10B:C) are installed and properly maintained.
- The structure will be inspected for proper housekeeping and general fire hazards.
- The fireworks products shall be inspected to ensure they are on the Fire Marshal's approved list.

Wholesalers are required to notify the Fire Marshal's Office of any shipment received at the warehouse or depot. Said notice shall be furnished not less than three (3) business days before the date the fireworks are delivered to any retail licensee. Wholesalers shall notify the District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department's Office of the Fire Marshals on (202) 727-1600 to make this notification.

Dennis Rubin
Fire Chief
DC Fire & EMS Department

Gary L. Palmer Jr.
Fire Marshal
District of Columbia