

# ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

## Safety & Environmental Services Section

1 Fire Authority Road, Building A, Irvine, CA 92602 714-573-6180 [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

# Fireworks from a Barge Public Display



**Approved and Authorized by**

**Guideline G-14**

**Fire Marshal / Assistant Chief**

**Date: January 2014**

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# Public Display of Fireworks from a Barge

## PURPOSE

This guideline is intended to provide general guidelines for public displays (fireworks) conducted on an offshore barge. Although similar to those public displays conducted on land, this guideline will serve as a specific guideline for public displays held on an open ocean water offshore barge. It ensures that all agencies (other than the Orange County Fire Authority) affected by the public display have given approval or have been notified of the event.

## DEFINITION

**Offshore Barge (definition): A large, flat-bottomed vessel, usually intended to be pushed or towed, for transporting freight or passengers.** An offshore barge will be considered an offshore vessel used in the open ocean waters. Vessels not used in the open ocean waters may be considered floats and/or platforms regulated by OCFA Public Display Guideline G-15

## SCOPE

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) has established general guidelines for the use of pyrotechnic devices on an offshore barge. It details those requirements specific to a public display conducted on an offshore barge. These requirements ensure that minimum life safety procedures and practices are met.

## SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

### Permit Application

- A. Submit a completed Orange County Fire Authority permit application form to: OCFA/ Fire Prevention- Attention Firework Display Coordinator 1 Fire Authority Rd. Irvine, CA 92602
- B. Provide a current copy of the following: Worker's Compensation, Auto and Liability and Property Damage insurance naming the Orange County Fire Authority, the city in which the event will take place, their officers, agents, employees and servants as additional insured. (CAC 19)
- C. Provide a current copy of the California State Fire Marshal issued pyrotechnic operator's license and current copy of the operator's California Driver's License.
- D. Submit a copy of the approved Marine Event permit and the current offshore barge certificate of inspection (COI) issued by the U.S. Coast Guard.

## Plans

**Applications shall be submitted in duplicate 14 days prior to the display. All applications received later than 14 days prior to the event may be subject to denial.**

- A. Include with the application a full firing site dimensioned plot plan that includes the specific locations of the barge on the water. Include the fallout area based on 100 feet per inch of shell size and show proximity to land.
- B. A full dimension plot plan of the barge, including the location of the operator during the firing of any fireworks, the firing box location and the distance between the closest mortar from firing site, location of all mortars and racks, emergency ladder, safety barriers, etc.
- C. Include information regarding the firing shelter. Information should include but not limited to dimension, construction type, distance to mortars, method of securing to barge, etc...

## OFF SHORE BARGE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Barges shall have a current U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection (COI) showing satisfactory inspection completed by Marine Safety Office.
- B. Barges shall be provided with at least 2 anchors to secure the barge at the firing location and prevent rotation from wind and currents. Tugboat can be used as stabilizer as long as all safety requirements are met.
- C. All shows from barges shall be electrically fired. **Manually fired shows are NOT permitted (CFC Section 5608.2 Local Amendment)** Dimension and size of barge must be of a size to accommodate a firing area and a safe distance for crew as approved by OCFA in accordance with NFPA 1123.
- D. A safety shelter must be constructed meeting the following requirements:
  - 1) Safety shelter shall be of sufficient size to accommodate all personnel present during the actual firing of the display
  - 2) Safety shelter will have a minimum of the 3 sides and a roof
  - 3) A front viewing area with the ability to see the entire shoot area is required to be provided for the operator
  - 4) Barges shall meet all requirements as required by the U.S. Coast Guard including but not limited to: Rescue rings with a lifeline, flotation devices for

each person a board, a ladder to provide emergency access and/or access for inspection.

- 5) Provide a minimum of 2 (currently serviced) 2-½ gallon pressurized water extinguishers.
- 6) Provide a receptacle to soak misfired or unfired shells. Shells can be soaked within mortars.

## PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

- A. P  
Provide a list of all qualified personnel who will be on the barge and identify their specific duties.
- B. O  
Only those personnel necessary for the safe operation of the fireworks display will be permitted on the barge during the firing of the fireworks.

**No spectators or additional personnel will be permitted on the barge.**

- C.  
All personnel on the barge shall wear U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation devices at all times.

## EVENT REQUIREMENTS

- A.  
Contact the **Orange County Fire Authority @ 714-573-6182** to schedule a date and time for a site inspection of the barge. The inspection will include, but not be limited to:
  - 1) Verify operator's license and I.D. Verify license and I.D.'s of all assistants
  - 2) Inspection/inventory of all firework shells and devices to be discharged
  - 3) Inspection of racks to determine proper spacing and bracing
  - 4) Inspection of mortars
  - 5) Inspection of ready boxes, fire extinguishers, ladders, flotation equipment, etc.
  - 6) Inspection of safety shelter

- B. Provide a minimum of one staffed chase boat to maintain clearance of the fallout area during the discharge of fireworks, and transport for inspection and/or emergency response personnel to and from the barge site as needed.
- C. Provide a two-way communication system between the barge crew, chase boat, tugboat, and the Inspection personnel.
- D. A continuity test shall be conducted prior to the show and/or test fire. A test fire of the largest color break shell, not a salute may be required to confirm that fallout is within designated areas.
- E. The Tug Boat and its operators shall be properly protected when located within the fallout zone during the discharge of any fireworks. Proper protection will include but not limited to: Long sleeve shirts, full-length pants, helmet, and eye protection.
- F. Submit an emergency action plan showing how the barge operator will notify and what action will be taken in the event of a fire and or medical aid emergency.