



Chepachet Fire Department

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

PARADE FLOAT FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

DEFINITIONS:

1. **PARADE FLOAT** — Parade float is a unit especially designed or constructed for use in conjunction with a parade or public gathering.
2. **DECORATIVE MATERIAL** — 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, including hay bales.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Motorized parade floats and towing apparatus shall be provided with a minimum **2-A:10-B:C** rated portable fire extinguisher that is readily accessible to the operator.

This fire extinguisher must be new with a receipt or have a current State Fire Marshal certification tag indicating that the extinguisher has been serviced within the last year. The gauge must indicate that the extinguisher has pressure. The extinguisher must be mounted so that it is accessible to the operators. Do not obstruct the extinguisher with decorative material to hide its location.

2. Decorative materials must be non-combustible or inherently flame retardant. If these materials are combustible, they must be treated flame retardant by a State Fire Marshal licensed applicator, or be treated with a State Fire Marshal approved fire retardant chemical, such as Flamort, Inspecta-Shield or No-Burn. The used chemical container and dated sales receipt shall be made available. Be sure to keep the certificate from the applicator so that you can show it to the Fire Inspector. A flame test of the material may be conducted by a Fire Inspector.
3. Open flame devices are prohibited on parade floats. The use of fuel fired torches, candles or similar devices which can ignite the parade float are prohibited. Fireworks are not permitted to be discharged.
4. Decorative material and the parade structure must be kept clear of the exhaust system of a motorized parade float. Do not let combustible material come in contact with hot exhaust pipes.

5. **Portable generators must be used carefully. Do not overload temporary electrical wiring. Secure extension cords properly; do not let them drag on the ground, or contact tires or the drive train. Inspect your electrical appliances before energizing the parade float. Ensure portable extension cords and lighting is in good condition and free of bare wire and splices.**
6. **Portable generators shall be secured to the parade float. Re-fueling of generators is not permitted. Ensure exhaust is directed outwards and not towards occupants.**
7. **Plastic sheeting (visqueen) and plastic tarps are not permitted.**
8. **Be sure the operator (driver) has a clear field of view. The driver must have a wide field of view to avoid other floats and the crowd. If you have to back-up your parade float, have sufficient personnel to guide the float.**
9. **Hold a safety meeting with the float staff early. Be prepared, identify the hazards and plan your strategy, should an unexpected event occur. Identify the location of the fire extinguisher and know how to shut off the generator and other electrical equipment. Identify a method to alert the driver to stop the parade float.**
10. **A Fire Inspector may conduct an inspection prior to the beginning of the parade.**