

Firework Displays & Use of Chinese Fire Crackers



FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES - DECEMBER 1999 A JOINT INITIATIVE OF CFA AND MFESB

Permit Requirements

A licence is required from Victorian Workcover Authority (VWA) for fireworks displays and a permit may also be required from the fire authority. At all times fireworks must be stored, handled and displayed safely, in accordance with the licence conditions.

General Fire Protection

At least one 9-L water fire extinguisher or, 20-L knapsack or, tap with attached garden hose able to cover the launch area, shall be provided at each point of launch.

Fire protection will depend on the location, area of operation and any existing systems or temporary arrangements that are implemented. The Fire Authority can assist in determining appropriate fire protection.

Operator

The operator must fully understand the safe operating and clearance directions supplied with the licence and Fireworks/Chinese Firecracker's.

Cleared Area

The area of launch must be clear of combustible materials and ignition sources. Combustible permanent fixtures, structures or vegetation must be protected against ignition.

Post Display Inspection

Following the display and before reopening of the area, it must be inspected for smouldering debris, misfired shells or unfired fireworks.

NOTE: Misfired shells must not be handled before 15 minutes has elapsed.

Fire Restriction Periods

Fireworks displays should not be conducted during total fire ban days or during fire danger periods unless written approval is obtained from the relevant fire authority.

Security

The immediate launch area should be restricted from access and be clearly delineated, to reduce the potential for injury. For large quantity displays, security is to be in accordance with licence requirements.

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Safety Responsibility

The area of firework display should be continually maintained for fire and general safety. The operator and persons with this responsibility must be trained in the implementation of procedures in case of an incident and in the use of temporary or fixed fire and safety equipment. A form of communication between operators, security staff and emergency services must be readily available and effective.

Informing the Fire Authority

The relevant Fire Authority should be contacted, at least one (1) week prior to the display and be provided with the following information:

- The date, start and finish times of the display;
- A site plan indicating the location of display, topography, buildings within the specified radius of display, as approved within the Work Cover licence;
- Estimated attendance;
- Communications;
- Site security & crowd control;
- Emergency services notification;
- First aid fire fighting;
- Emergency medical services.

Emergency Planning

Emergency procedures containing the following information must be prepared, understood and tested:

- Description of means of alerting emergency services;
- Details of how to notify display operators to terminate display if a dangerous situation is present or arises during the display, and
- Details of how to notify the public of,
 - Fire,
 - Medical emergency,
 - Crowd disturbance,
 - Adverse weather conditions, or
 - Any situation that may place the public at an unacceptable risk

NOTE: The use of fireworks without a licence is illegal in the State of Victoria.
Victorian Workcover Authority (VWA) is the regulatory agency for approval and licence issue.
VWA can be contacted on 9641 1555.