



City of Vernon

Fireworks Stand Inspection

Guidelines

March 2013

Introduction

City of Vernon Fire Department Requirements for Retail Fireworks Stands

In an effort to assist the organizational operators of retail fireworks stands, the Fireworks Stand Inspection Guidelines have been developed. We encourage all fireworks stand organizations to contact Vernon Fire Department should any questions come up prior to your fireworks stand inspection. The inspection must be scheduled with a Vernon Fire Department Inspector at least 48 hours prior to the date of inspection. The inspection is done before the sale of fireworks is approved. Please call 323 583-8811, extension 282 to speak with Inspector Bill Wilson.

The inspection process is done to confirm the fireworks stand and surrounding property is safely prepared to host fireworks sales during the 4th of July holiday period. The rules or guidelines are established by the State of California and the City of Vernon to confirm safety is maintained at all times during this period. Failure to comply with the guidelines will result in a delay of the issuance of the City of Vernon Fireworks permit. Without a Permit, fireworks will not be allowed to be sold.

Guidelines

Signs

“No Smoking” signs are to be posted inside and outside the fireworks stand. The signs are to be easily visible to the public and to fireworks sales personnel. It is suggested that the signs be commercially manufactured. Signs can be purchased at retail, home improvement, or hardware stores.

“No Sales to Anyone under 16 Years of Age” signs are to be posted inside and outside the fireworks stand. The signs are to be easily visible to the public and to fireworks sales personnel.

“Exit” signs are to be posted above the interior exit doors of the fireworks stand. The signs are to be easily visible at all times. It is suggested that the signs be commercially manufactured. Signs can be purchased at retail, home improvement, or hardware stores.

Fire Extinguishers

The fireworks stand is required to have a minimum of 2 fire extinguishers. The extinguishers are to be located where they are easily visible and accessible in the event of an emergency. The extinguishers must have been inspected by a California state approved commercial fire extinguisher contractor. Each extinguisher will have an attached service tag that is dated June of this year or earlier. The date will be punched into the tag. Extinguishers with a serviced date before June of the previous year will not be acceptable for use.

Exits and Aisles

Each fireworks stand is to provide a pathway aisle through the stand that travels directly to an exit. This aisle is to be maintained clear at all times of any materials or items that would block or create a hazard limiting access to the stands' exits.

A fireworks stand is to have at least 2 exits. These exits are to be maintained clear at all times of any materials or items that would block or create a hazard limiting the ability to exit the stand. Exit signs will be posted above each exit door.

Electrical Power Use

Electrical power is used at fireworks stands for a variety of activities that require energy to operate. Power can be provided in three ways; electricity from an existing on-site power connection, the placement of a temporary power pole delivering power from the City power system, or electricity from a portable generator. Each of these methods has specific requirements. A State licensed electrical contractor is required to pull a permit with the Community Services-Building Department. All contractors working the in City of Vernon are required to have a City business license.

If the fireworks stand has an **existing on-site power** connection, the use of extension cords will be required to deliver electricity to the stand. This method is required to meet the following standards:

- Extension cords must be commercial grade #12 or larger *heavy duty* type, approved for outdoor use.
- Extension cords located in areas where vehicles drive over or customers walk on will be protected from abrasion. Please discuss the protective method with a City Inspector prior to using.

Electrical Power Use (continued)

If the site does not have an existing power source, a **temporary power pole** can be installed, or repairs to an existing stationary on-site pole can be done by a licensed (State and City) electrical contractor. This process can take up to 2-weeks advance notice to arrange for and complete the connection. Please contact the City of Vernons' electrical maintenance service company, Patrelli Electric at 323 583-8811 extension 5685 or at 323 826-3683, and ask for Rick Micek-City Service Planner. Additionally, you will need to apply for electrical service at the Vernon City Hall-Customer Service counter; the fee for the service is a flat rate. Upon installation of electrical equipment, the electrical contractor will call the City of Vernon Community Services Division for an inspection of the new or re-energized electrical service. Upon completion of the inspection, the power will be activated at the site within 24 hours. *Note: the use of extension cords with a temporary pole must meet the same requirements of use with the existing power source.*

If on-site power or the installation of a temporary power pole is not an option, a **portable generator** may be used. All portable generators must meet the following requirements:

- Located at least 25 feet from fireworks stand.
- Fuel for the generator must be stored more than 50 feet from the stand, and stored in an approved manner.
- The use of extension cords with a portable generator must meet the same requirements of use with the existing power source or temporary power pole (*see above*).

Vegetation and Combustible Materials

If your fireworks stand is located within 50 feet of areas that have tall grass, weeds, or unmanaged brush also known as vegetation, or combustible materials such uncontained trash, these hazards must be removed. The vegetation must be cleared or cut down to a minimum of 3 inches in height and the combustible materials must be removed and safely contained in approved trash containers. *It is the responsibility of the fireworks stands organization(s) and their workers or volunteers to maintain the surrounding area near the stand the entire time the fireworks permit is active.* In Addition the organizations will:

- Keep the floor area inside the fireworks stand free of combustible materials and waste.

Vegetation and Combustible Materials (continued)

- Not allow combustible waste-trash materials to accumulate outside the stand. All trash will be removed from the premises each evening at the close of business. Dumpsters are not allowed within 10 feet of the stand.
- All combustible waste materials are to be placed in approved containers until removed from the premises.

Posting of Licenses and Permits

All required permits and licenses must be posted in a conspicuous location inside the fireworks stand. These documents include:

- Copy of the valid Retail Sales License Application - California State Fire Marshal
- Copy of the Temporary Seller's Permit - California State Board of Equalization
- Copy of the Fireworks Permit – City of Vernon Fire Department

Required Inspection and Approval

Before fireworks are allowed to be sold, an inspection by City Inspectors is required. It is the responsibility of the organization to contact the Fire Inspector at least 48 hours in advance to schedule the inspection. Do not schedule the inspection until the stand operators have completed all required tasks as stated in the City of Vernon Fireworks Stand Inspection Guidelines.

Until the inspection has been completed and the required City of Vernon permit has been issued, the organization in charge of the stand is prohibited from selling fireworks. *A notice will be placed on the stand informing the public that fireworks cannot be sold until the inspection.*

(see next page for example)



(Example)

FIREWORKS CANNOT BE SOLD UNTIL THE CITY OF VERNON FIRE INSPECTOR HAS INSPECTED AND APPROVED THE STAND BY ORDER OF THE VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Fire Inspector will be checking for the following:

Vernon Fire Department

Fireworks Stand Inspection Checklist

Organization Name _____ Stand Address _____

Inspector Name _____ Date _____

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fireworks stand is a minimum of 5' to any sidewalk or 15' from curbing where no sidewalk exists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stand is at least 25' from any other building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stand is at least 100' from any location where flammable liquids are stored or dispensed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | No vehicle parking within 10' of stand; vehicles used for sleeping shall be parked 25' from stand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is graffiti present on stand; if so, remove within 24 hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Signs posted on stand stating, "No Smoking" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Signs posted on stand stating, "No Sales to Anyone under 16 Years of Age" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If used, a temporary power pole has been permitted, inspected & approved by the City of Vernon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If used, a generator is located at least 25' from stand & all extension cords are heavy duty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Extension cords are protected from foot and automobile traffic abrasion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Weeds and combustible material have been cleared at least 50' of fireworks stand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trash container(s) and dumpsters are positioned at least 10' from stand |

Fireworks Stand Inspection Checklist

(Continued)

- 2 or more 2 ½ gallon water-type fire extinguishers are provided in stand and easily visible
 - Fire extinguishers have been serviced within the last 12 months with inspection tag attached
 - Fireworks stand aisles and exits are clear of all items; the stand must have at least 2 exits
 - All fireworks for sale are approved “Safe & Sane” consumer fireworks
 - All licenses and permits are posted in a conspicuous location within the stand
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This booklet was designed to assist and explain the requirements, and answer questions that you may have for setting up a retail fireworks stand in the City of Vernon. For comments or questions, please contact:

City of Vernon Fire Department

4305 Santa Fe Ave.

Vernon, CA 90058

323 583-8811

firepreventionbureau@ci.vernon.ca.us