



Operational Permit Application



Fireworks Display

www.cityofvancouver.us/departments/fire-department

International Fire Code as adopted by VMC 16.04 (Washington State Fire Code)

Permitting Requirements

An **operational permit** is required for the manufacture, storage, handling, possession, sale, or use of any quantity of explosives, explosive materials, or pyrotechnic special effects as regulated by WSFC 105.5.16. **The possession, sale, or use of fireworks is illegal in the city limits of Vancouver per the Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) Title 16.20.**

Exception: Where a valid permit is issued to a pyrotechnic operator, licensed in the State of Washington, for activity in the city limits of Vancouver.

An **operational permit** is required for the possession, storage, handling, or launch of any quantity of fireworks for public display.

Project Information

Site Address		Owner Name	
Other			

Applicant Information

Company Name		Address		
Contact Name				
Office Phone		Cellular		Email

Contractor

Company Name		Address		
Contact Name				
Office Phone		Cellular		Email
Related Permits:	RES _____	CMI _____	DEF _____	MPE _____

Description of Work

Display Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor	<input type="checkbox"/> Theatrical	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Picture Special Effects
	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor	<input type="checkbox"/> Proximate Audience	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>Specify</i>): _____
Operator Licenses Included:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pyrotechnic operator license	<input type="checkbox"/> Proximate display operator license	<input type="checkbox"/> General Display
	<input type="checkbox"/> Flame effects operator license	<input type="checkbox"/> Special effects operator license	
	Each operator does not need a general display license if he or she is shooting displays for a company that has a general display license.		

Electronic Plan Standards

File Naming Standards:

Electronic plans and documents shall be named as specified in the City of Vancouver [ePLANS](https://www.cityofvancouver.us/business/permits-licenses-and-inspections/eplans/) system:
<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/business/permits-licenses-and-inspections/eplans/>



Acceptable File Types:

Plans, calculations, specifications and supporting documents shall be uploaded as a PDF file.

Plan Sheet Standards:

All plans shall be drawn to scale, as identified in the checklist, and each sheet shall state the scale and show a measurable scale on the page for measurement calibrations.

Document Orientation:

All plans must be uploaded in "Landscape" format in the horizontal position with a north indicator. All other documents can be in "Portrait" format.

Stamped:

Where documentation contains a code analysis or engineering calculations, such documents shall be stamped by the design professional.

Definitions

See WSFC chapters 2 and 56, RCW 70.74.10, and applicable Codes of Federal Regulations (CFR) definitions sections and NFPA Standard definitions.

Minimum Submittal Checklist for Upload to ePLANS

- Completed Fire Operational Permit Application – Fireworks Display (this document) Check all *Permit Conditions* checkboxes that are applicable to your project
- Completed Materials Management Plan (HMMP) documents and supplemental documents (*See Document Details below*) or for fireworks display, Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) when requested.
- Site plans (*see Plan Details below*)
- Washington State Licensing

Document Details

HMMP Guide: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Hazardous-Materials-Management-Plan.pdf>

When requested by the AHJ, please use the above link to fill out a hazardous materials inventory statement and management plan.

1. Written safety and emergency plan to include notification to the responding fire department and/or the presence of standby firefighting personnel and apparatus. Launch site and magazine security provisions. And a written plan establishing procedure to follow and actions to be taken in the event that a shell fails to ignite in, or discharge from, a mortar or fails to function over the fallout area or other malfunctions shall be provided to the fire code official.
2. Copy of proof current Washington State Fire Marshal licensing for Pyrotechnic Operator and General Public Display.
3. Copy of proof of certificate of insurance or bond in such form, amount, and coverage as determined by the city of Vancouver attorney's office to be adequate in each case to indemnify Vancouver against any and all damages arising from permitted blasting or fireworks display.

Plan Details

The following is a list of information required on all plan submittals for review of an explosives permit. The plan shall be drawn to 1/8" = 1'-0" minimum scale. The applicant is required to submit all applicable information so an accurate and timely review may be completed.

Site plan shall include:

- North indicator and measurable scale.
- Emergency access lanes for fire and EMS.
- Locations of spectators and vehicles.
- All fencing and egress points and whether they are staffed or unstaffed.
- The name of the organization sponsoring the display, if other than the applicant.
- The date the display is to be held.
- The exact location for the display.
- The name and license number of the pyrotechnic operator who is to supervise discharge of the fireworks and the name of at least one experienced assistant.
- The number of set pieces, shells (specify single or multiple break), and other items.
- The manner and place of storage of such fireworks prior to the display.
- A diagram of the grounds on which the display is to be held showing the point at which the fireworks are to be discharged, the location of all buildings, highways, and other lines of communication, the lines behind which the audience will be restrained, the location of all nearby trees, power or telephone lines, or other overhead obstruction.
- Anticipated wind direction and speed and fallout area.
- Ready box/Magazine location and separation distances
- Launch area/platform and separation distances.
- Pyrotechnic operator location and separation distances
- Area secured from public access.
- Areas designated NO SMOKING.
- Locations and types of portable fire extinguishers.
- Area to be pre-wetted prior to the show if applicable.
- Emergency responder vehicle staging location(s) where applicable.

Permit Conditions

Outdoor fireworks displays, use of pyrotechnics before a proximate audience and pyrotechnic special effects in motion picture, television, theatrical and group entertainment productions shall comply with Sections 5608.2 through 5608.10 and NFPA 1123 or NFPA 1126.

Storage and Handling:

- Explosives and explosive materials, and Division 1.3G fireworks shall be stored in magazines constructed, located, operated, and maintained in accordance with the provisions of WSFC 5604 and NFPA 495 or NFPA 1124 (WSFC 5604.2).

Operation:

- The *approved* fireworks shall be arranged, located, discharged and fired in a manner that will not pose a hazard to property or endanger any person.
- Spectators, spectator parking areas, and *dwellings*, buildings or structures shall not be located within the display site.
- The storage of fireworks at the display site shall comply with the requirements of this section and NFPA 1123 or NFPA 1126. Magazines or ready boxes shall be kept locked in the manner.
- Weather protection shall be maintained. Fireworks shall be kept dry after delivery to the display site.
- Mortars for firing fireworks shells shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 1123 and shall be positioned so that shells are propelled away from spectators and over the fallout area. Mortars shall not be angled toward the spectator viewing area.

Prior to placement, mortars shall be inspected for defects, such as dents, bent ends, damaged interiors and damaged plugs. Defective mortars shall not be used.

- Aerial shells shall be carried to mortars by the shell body. For the purpose of loading mortars, aerial shells shall be held by the thick portion of the fuse and carefully loaded into mortars.
- Whenever in the opinion of the *fire code official* or the operator a hazardous condition exists, the fireworks display shall be discontinued immediately until such time as the dangerous situation is corrected. Provisions for emergency communication with the operator shall be established before launch commencement.
- Smoking, matches, flame producing devices, open flames, firearms, and firearms cartridges shall not be allowed inside of or within 50 feet of magazines ready boxes, and launch areas (WSFC 504.7.2).
- The area located around a magazine or ready box shall be kept clear of brush, dried grass leaves, trash, debris, and similar combustible materials for a distance of 25 feet (WSFC 5604.7.3).
- Combustible material shall not be stored within 50 feet of magazines (WSFC 5604.7.4).
- Containers of explosive materials, except fiberboard containers, and packages of damaged or deteriorated explosive materials or fireworks shall not be unpacked or repacked inside or within 50 feet of a magazine or in close proximity to explosive materials (WSFC 5604.7.5).

Fireworks Display:

- Use of pyrotechnics before a proximate audience. Where the separation distances required in Section 5608.4 and NFPA 1123 are unavailable or cannot be secured, fireworks displays shall be conducted in accordance with NFPA 1126 for proximate audiences. Applications for use of pyrotechnics before a proximate audience shall include plans indicating the required clearances for spectators and combustibles, crowd control measures, smoke control measures and requirements for standby personnel and equipment where provision of such personnel or equipment is required by the fire code official.
- Approved fireworks displays shall include only the approved fireworks 1.3G, fireworks 1.4G, fireworks 1.4S and pyrotechnic articles 1.4G, which shall be handled by an approved, competent operator. The approved fireworks shall be arranged, located, discharged, and fired in a manner that will not pose a hazard to property or endanger any person.
- Storage shall be protected from weather and shall be attended at all times that they are on site.
- Damage fireworks shall not be used.
 - Exception: Minor repairs to fuses shall be allowed. For electrically ignited displays, attachment of electric matches and similar tasks shall be allowed.
- Ready boxes shall be located upwind and not less than 25 feet (7.62 meters) from the mortar placement and shall be separated according to their size and designations.
 - Exception: For electrically fired fireworks displays, or fireworks displays where all shells are loaded into mortars prior to the show, separation of shells according to their size, their designation as salutes or for the use of ready boxes is not required.
- Mortars for firing fireworks shells shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 1123 and shall be positioned so that shells are propelled away from spectators and over the fallout area. Mortars shall not be angled toward the spectator viewing area. Prior to placement, mortars shall be inspected for defects, such as dents, bent ends, damaged interiors, and damaged plugs. Defective mortars shall not be used.
- Handling of aerial shells shall be by the shell body until loaded into the mortars.
- Changes in conditions. When in the opinion of the fire code official or the operator that a hazardous condition exists, the fireworks display shall be immediately discontinued, until or unless the condition changes. Examples: increased wind speed, change of wind direction, lightning storms, or similar unplanned conditions.

Post Fireworks Display:

- After the fireworks display, the firing crew shall conduct an inspection of the fallout area for the purpose of locating unexploded aerial shells or live components. This inspection shall be conducted before public access to the site shall be allowed. Where fireworks are displayed at night and it is not possible to inspect the site thoroughly, the operator or designated assistant shall inspect the entire site at first light. Site security and attendance shall be maintained until the inspection is completed.

- An accountability report identifying any shells that fail to ignite in, or discharge from, a mortar or fail to function over the fallout area or otherwise malfunction, shall be filed with the fire code official.
- Shells that fail to launch or explode shall not be handled until not less than 15 minutes have elapsed from the time the shells were fired. The fireworks shall then be doused with water and allowed to remain for not less than 5 additional minutes before being placed in a plastic bucket or fiberboard box. The disposal instructions of the manufacturer as provided by the fireworks supplier shall then be followed in disposing of the fireworks in accordance with Section 5604.10.
- The operator shall request a post-fireworks-display inspection by the code official prior to reimbursement of any financial bonds required by the City of Vancouver.

The owner/operator shall be responsible to maintain compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations and standards for fire and life safety, including, but not limited to International Fire Code chapter 56, DOTn 49 CFR parts 100-185, NFPA 495, NFPA 498, NFPA 1122, NFPA 1125, NFPA 1127, NFPA 400, RCW 70.74 and RCW 70.77.

NOTE: *This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. The WSFC requirements listed are intended to ensure that we have adequate information to begin a review of the application, and so that the applicant understands their responsibilities. Additional information may be required, and additional conditions may apply. Fireworks display permits may be revoked when a burn-ban is in effect in accordance with WAC 212-17-280.*

This permit is not transferrable to another type or size of material, operator, owner, location, or date(s).

I understand that all applicable codes apply and that other regulatory codes may also apply. Errors and/or omissions on the plans and corrections from field inspections are the responsibility of the owner/operator. All work is subject to compliance with City of Vancouver ordinances and laws of the State of Washington.

APPLICANT NAME: _____ APPLICATION DATE: _____

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____

Key personnel names and cell phone personnel for emergency launch pause or discontinuation communications:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.