



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services



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PETER J. OSTROSKY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To: Heads of Fire Departments
From: Peter J. Ostroskey
Date: May 21, 2021
Subject: **Commercial Fireworks Shows**

With the summer fireworks season fast approaching, fire departments are busy making sure final plans for supervised displays are in place to ensure these events are safe and conducted in accordance with the State Fire Code. The Fire Safety Division stands ready to provide the highest possible level of technical, compliance, and enforcement support during the fireworks season. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, many communities were interested in selecting new fireworks display locations to allow for safer distances between spectators. If your community would like assistance in determining if these new locations meet the State Fire Code requirements, Code Compliance and Enforcement Officers from the Fire Safety Division will be able to assist you with these site reviews.

DFS Code Compliance Assistance

Code Compliance and Enforcement Officers are available, 24 hours a day, to respond to your communities should the need arise. During normal business hours, please call the Fire Safety Division at (978) 567-3375. To contact a Code Compliance and Enforcement Officer during a pre-display setup inspection by your department, or to report an accident, call the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency at (508) 820-2000 and ask that a DFS Code Compliance and Enforcement Officer be paged.

Natural Barrier Approvals

When necessary, the Fire Safety Division grants natural barrier approvals. Natural barriers are restrictive terrains, bodies of water, or heavily wooded areas that restrict access to a fireworks display area. If you have previously received an approval and nothing has changed in the plans submitted to you by the fireworks shooter (including shell size), you do not need another approval. If you need a site inspection for approval, please contact (978) 567-3375, at least thirty (30) days before the proposed display date.

Fireworks Inspection Checklist

A representative of your department should take a close look at the display during the setup process during daylight hours in the late afternoon. This procedure provides the best opportunity to inspect and correct any compliance issues, and ensures a safe and successful fireworks display. The checklist is found on page two (2) of the “Application/Permit for Supervised Fireworks Display (FP-027)”, and is available on the DFS website at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/fp-027-applicationpermit-for-supervised-display-of-fireworks/download>

Post Fireworks

A thorough search of the display site shall be made by the competent operator immediately after the display and again at first light the following morning to ensure recovery of all unexploded shells. If the competent operator is unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or injury, a substitute competent operator, upon approval of the AHJ, shall be permitted conduct the searches.

A thorough search shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A search as described above;
- (2) Completed form prescribed by the State Fire Marshal that indicates the start and stop time of the search; and
- (3) Acknowledgement by the operator and Head of the Fire Department or his or her designee that they have completed the requirements of this section.

This form is available on the DFS website at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/fp-027b-post-fireworks-display-checklist/download>

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