



CITY OF TAMPA

Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

Tampa Fire Rescue
Fire Chief T.E. Forward

Fire Prevention Bureau
Russell Spicola, Fire Marshal

August 16th, 2011

Baton Twirler Procedures and Fire Batons Per NFPA 160, Chapter 7 & 8

The following safety procedures will be followed when using Fire Batons during USF Athletic Department events. I also urge all involved to read the attached NFPA 160 requirements, since this is what the Tampa Fire Marshal's Office will enforce per City of Tampa Charter. Please pay special attention to the areas that state "acceptable and approved by the authority having jurisdiction".

- Storage and Transportation of fuels will be kept separated from flame sources (lighters, matches, etc.) at all times.
- An open Flame permit will be applied for through the Fire Marshal's Office at a cost of \$70.00. That permit will be good for the entire 2011 Football Season.
- A Firebox must be used to extinguish baton(s).
- A Fire Blanket is **required** for each Baton Twirler.
- When multiple twirlers are using fire batons, each twirler must have their own Firebox.
- Each Firebox must have its own extinguisher, and be positioned nearby, during the performance.
- Fire Batons that have been placed into the Firebox to be extinguished must remain in box for a minimum of 20 seconds. Once the Firebox has been closed, no subsequent Fire Batons may be added to the Fire Box.
- It is **strongly urged and recommended** that only one fuel be used for the performance, which is Coleman Camp Fluid. The mixture of the camp fluid and gasoline **can** be very volatile and dangerous.
- Finally, the performer must be at least 21 years of age per NFPA 160, 8.4

Respectfully,

Russell C. Spicola
Fire Marshal

7.1* Testing and Evaluation.

7.1.1 Flame effects shall be inspected on an interval acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

7.1.2 Flame effects shall be tested to verify that they operate in accordance with their designs.

7.1.3 Flame effects shall be evaluated to verify that operators, performers, and the audience are not exposed to a hazardous situation when the flame effects are activated as designed or anticipated.

7.2 Housekeeping.

The premises where flame effect devices are installed or fired shall be maintained in a neat and orderly condition.

7.3 Site Inspection.

The flame effect operator shall inspect all areas of the site where flame effect materials and devices are ignited before start-up and after shutdown.

7.4 Smoking.

7.4.1 Smoking shall be prohibited in the area where fuels used in flame effects are present.

7.4.2 Smoking by performers as part of the performance shall be permitted where approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

7.5 Rehearsal and Pre-Show Operations.

7.5.1 The flame effect operator shall advise all performers and support personnel that they are exposed to a potentially hazardous situation when performing or otherwise carrying out their responsibilities in the vicinity of a flame effect.

7.5.2 Performers and support personnel familiar and experienced with the flame effects being used shall be permitted to be in the area of a flame effect, but only voluntarily and in the performance of their duties.

7.6 Show Operations.

Show operations shall be in accordance with the plan approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

7.7 Post-Show Operations.

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Post-show operations shall be in accordance with the plan approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

7.7.1 Fire and life safety systems that have been interrupted shall be restored immediately after completion of the flame effect.

7.7.2 When restoration of fire and life safety systems is necessary, it shall be conducted by a person trained in the operation of all aspects of the systems.

7.8 Maintenance.

Flame effect systems shall be maintained to design specifications.

7.9 Emergency Operations.

Emergency operations shall be in accordance with the plan approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

7.10 Protective Clothing.

7.10.1 The flame effect performers, operators, and assistants shall be protected by clothing or other means suitable for their exposure to flame effects.

7.10.2 Protective clothing requiring fire resistance shall be tested and demonstrated to be flame retardant, and documentation shall be furnished to the authority having jurisdiction upon request.

7.10.3 Bare skin (naked) shall be permitted when the illusion of danger is implicit in the visual effect desired by the performer.

7.11 Security.

7.11.1 A means shall be provided to render installed flame effect systems inoperative when not in use.

7.11.2 Portable flame effects shall be stored and secured when not in use.

Chapter 8 Flame Effect Operator

8.1* Operator Qualifications.

8.1.1 The operator of any flame effect shall understand and be familiar with the operating manual or instructions.

8.1.2 The operator shall demonstrate competency by experience and training or by holding a license acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

8.2 Operator Responsibilities.

The flame effect operator shall be responsible for storage, setup, operations, and teardown of all flame effect materials, devices, equipment, systems, and supervision of assistants.

8.3 Substance Abuse and Safety.

No person shall use or handle flame effect materials or devices under the influence of the following:

- (1) Intoxicating beverages
- (2) Narcotics or controlled substances
- (3) Prescription drugs and/or nonprescription drugs that can impair judgment

8.4* Minimum Age.

All flame effect operators shall be at least 21 years of age.