



Miami Beach Fire Department
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
STANDARDS



TOPIC: Pyrotechnics in Assembly Occupancies

STANDARD NO: EXINSP-S12
Revision 0

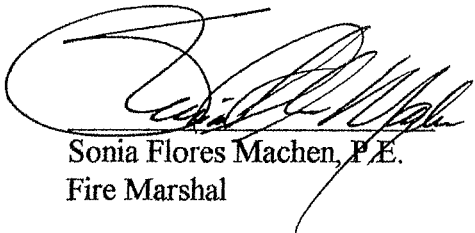
In the City of Miami Beach, any and all pyrotechnic displays and flame effects require a fire permit issued by the Fire Marshal's Office. The applicant must submit proper documentation to show that the display will comply with all the requirements of NFPA 1126, *Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics before a Proximate Audience*, and/or NFPA 160, *Standard for Flame Effects Before an Audience*.

Specific types of assembly occupancies, such as nightclubs and bar lounges, have particular concerns unlike other types of assemblies. The use of pyrotechnics have proven to be deadly in recent history as shown below.

02/20/2003: Nightclub fire in Rhode Island, USA. 100 dead, 200+ injured
12/30/2004: Nightclub fire in Buenos Aires, Argentina. 194 dead, 600+ injured
01/01/2009: Nightclub fire in Bangkok, Thailand. 66 dead, 200+ injured
12/04/2009: Nightclub fire in Perm, Russia. 154 dead, 130 injured

There are many variables that contributed to these fatalities in each case. However, the environment and operation of nightclubs and bar/lounges are similar and warrant special precaution and fire prevention requirements. Therefore, pyrotechnic displays and/or open flame are not permitted in these types of assembly occupancies. This measure includes sparklers i.e., (ice fountains) fastened to champagne bottles carried by waiters or stationary at the bar; candles throughout the establishment; flamed desserts (i.e., cherries jubilee); or any other device or feature that presents a readily ignition source.

These policy and requirements are based on the Florida Fire Prevention Code, NFPA 101-The Life Safety Code, American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) information, United Nations (UN) identification number.


Sonia Flores Machen, P.E.
Fire Marshal

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