

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Statute, Rule or Standard Policy Interpretation: **Flame Effect License and Permit Requirements**

Title:	Pyrotechnic Distributor and Operator Licensing Act [225 ILCS 227] Pyrotechnic Use Act [425 ILCS 35]
Part:	225 ILCS 227; 425 ILCS 35
Section Number:	N/A
Section Title:	N/A
Policy Number:	11-FP-00X

Purpose: This instruction provides current policy and guidance to ensure uniform enforcement of the fire safety requirements to perform a Flame Effect pursuant to the Pyrotechnic Distributor and Operator Licensing Act [227 ILCS 227] and the Pyrotechnic Use Act [425 ILCS 35]. Specifically, the policy identifies those situations where a Flame Effect License and Permit are not required.

Scope: Statewide

Current Code: "*Flame Effect*" means the detonation, ignition, or deflagration of flammable gases, liquids, or special materials to produce a thermal, physical, visual, or audible effect before the public, invitees, or licensees, regardless of whether admission is charged in accordance with NFPA 160. The Acts require that the person performing the flame effect be licensed as a lead pyrotechnic operator and that a permit for such an effect has been issued by the appropriate local governmental authority. In addition, any indoor flame effect must be conducted in an area protected by automatic sprinkler systems and meeting the requirements of the administrative rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal.

Enforcement Policy: An operator's license and permit is not required where such flame effect is being conducted for educational purposes, research or necessary for the production or manufacture of a product, and the following conditions are met:

1. The flame effect occurs in a room designed for such purpose (ie: laboratory, research area, production area);
2. The person performing such flame effect is qualified and employed by the entity that permits the flame effect operation;
3. The entity's insurance policy permits such flame effect operation; and
4. The individuals that view the flame effect are limited to students of the particular educational facility; or employees of the particular research or manufacturing entity.

Should a facility desire to perform such flame effect outside of a room designed for such purpose (i.e., classroom, science laboratory, technical lab, etc.), the following must be met:

1. The area where the flame effect will occur must be protected throughout, including both the seating area and demonstrating area, by an automatic sprinkler system; or
2. The demonstration area must be protected by an automatic sprinkler system and have a proscenium curtain, as required by NFPA 101, that will automatically deploy in the event of a fire. No flame effect device may be set up on the demonstration area forward of the curtain, i.e., on the audience side of the curtain.

Reason: To provide guidance and ensure the uniform enforcement of the Pyrotechnic Distributor and Operator Licensing Act and the Pyrotechnic Use Act with respect to educational and research institutions.

Effective Date: May 15, 2011