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Official Sponsors

Nu-Way/Operation BHILD  
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San Diego, CA 92174-0352  
Website: [www.HeritageDayParade.org](http://www.HeritageDayParade.org)

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A 501 c 3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES

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## Annual Heritage Day Festival & Parade

### Float Requirements

As set by the San Diego City Fire Dept.  
FPB Policy F-86-9

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**For more information contact the San Diego City Fire Dept.  
located at: 1222 First Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101**

**PURPOSE:** These guidelines are intended to clarify the requirements for the use of a parade floats for public performance, presentation, spectacle, entertainment or parade.

**SCOPE:** These guidelines establish the minimum regulations for the operation of (Parade) floats.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:

- I. A permit is required for any parade float built or used in the City of San Diego (Uniform Fire Code Section 4.101 – 37). It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to use or engage in any activities for which a permit is required, without first having obtained such permit.
- II. All decorative materials used must be fire resistive or flame retardant.
- III. All motorized apparatus shall be provided with an approved 2A-10BC rating fire extinguisher accessible to the operator.

### DRIVER REQUIREMENTS:

- I. Driver must have a valid driver's license.
- II. If enclosed, driver must have at least two escape routes.
- III. Driver's compartment must be properly ventilated to prevent the accumulation of exhaust fumes – carbon monoxide.

### FLOAT VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:

Materials used on many parade floats are highly combustible and may cause a catastrophic event if precautions are not taken to mitigate the danger. The Elk Grove Fire Department has established the following guidelines to try to prevent the ignition of combustible materials that would endanger people in/on the floats.

In an effort to assist the community with applying the Uniform Fire Code requirements pertaining to parade floats, this guide has been designed to assist you during all phases of construction, decoration, and dismantling operations.

## FIRE RETARDANT

Floats made with decorative material, such as crepe paper and/or combustible decorations, shall be flame-retardant treated. Only a State Fire Marshal's approved fire retardant will be allowed to be used.

A list of approved retardants can be obtained at the Fire Prevention Bureau, at the Fire Department Administration office.

If any people are riding on board, THE FLOAT MUST BE TREATED WITH FIRE RETARDANT. Hay bales do not need to be treated. Loose hay does have to be treated.

If the float is built around a vehicle that is to be driven from within (as opposed to being towed), IT MUST BE TREATED WITH FIRE RETARDANT.

If the float is towed and NO people are riding on it, it does NOT have to be treated with fire retardant.

All floats that are made of NON-COMBUSTIBLE materials may be built around vehicles and may have people riding on them.

## SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited when working with flammable and combustible materials of any type.

"NO SMOKING" signs shall be displayed in all storage areas.

Smoking on a parade float is prohibited.

## **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

A minimum rated 2A10BC, (5 lbs.) is required to be on site during the construction phase of the parade float.

A minimum rated 2A10BC, fire extinguisher shall be accessible to the operator of a powered float while the float is in operation.

Floats being towed with people on board shall have at least 2 (two) 2A10BC extinguishers on the float.

Floats using hay shall have at least 2 (two) 2A10BC extinguishers on the float.

## **HOUSE KEEPING**

Cleanup of all combustibles and trash shall be done on a regular basis.

## **ELECTRICITY**

Any float using a generator or other power source requires a miscellaneous electrical permit obtained from the Building Department when more than one extension cord is used.

No combustibles are permitted within five (5) feet of a generator.

Generators shall be secured.

Use only an extension cord with built-in circuit breaker.

## **SPACE HEATERS**

Space heaters shall not be allowed in or around floats while in use or under construction.

## **FIREWORKS**

It is prohibited to use fireworks in a parade setting where floats are present.

## **FLOAT REFUELING PROCEDURES**

Floats shall be refueled as scheduled and only in the presence of a Fire Department Engine Company.

Propane or natural gas are *NOT* allowed as a source to fuel the floats.

The storage of gasoline cans on a float is prohibited.

## **INSPECTION**

Bring a plan of your float to the Fire Department for review prior to construction.

All floats will be inspected by a member of the Fire Department prior to beginning the parade.

## **FLOAT EXITS**

Each float with people riding on or in it shall allow for easy and immediate exit.

Drivers of powered floats shall be able to open the driver's side vehicle door and a swinging door on the float to exit safely.