

Float Safety Requirements

1. Float & Running Gear- The Foundation for a tow float is typical a sturdy flat trailer bed with pneumatic wheels. All load supporting areas on the float should be wood, steel, or other structurally competent material (not cardboard). Wheels, tires, dollies, axles, bearings of adequate sizes and strength to support the total load of float required. Wheels and tires should be in good condition and vehicle brakes sufficient to stop the float when loaded. The authority having jurisdiction with the parade shall have exclusive right to ban any unsafe vehicle.

2. Vehicle Maintenance- Vehicles pulling floats and self-propelled floats shall be serviced for gas, oil, water, tires, and battery prior to reporting to staging areas. Vehicles licensed for highway use shall have proof of insurance. No extra gasoline may be carried on the float. For emergencies, a horn or other sounding device is to be present.

3. Decorative- All decorative material shall be manufactured or treated to be effectively fire retardant. If not marked as such, decorative material may be treated with a fire retardant solution. The finished float and decorated areas should have no sharp or unfinished edges exposed. If the driver or any other individuals are enclosed within the float or decorations, proper ventilation and emergency exits shall be provided.

4. Driver Vision/Communication- Floats decorations shall be designed to allow the driver 180 degrees clear vision to the front and the sides of the float or tow unit. If 180 degrees vision can not be provided, a spotter (s) with clear vision of these areas must accompany the float as guide. Driver shall also have view of (or communication with) float riders in the event of a problem on the float.

5. Fire Extinguisher- At least one 10 pound ABC fire extinguisher shall be carried in a easily accessible, designated location on the float or towing vehicle. The fire extinguishers shall be sealed, tagged, and dated within the previous 12 month period. Open flames displays, roman candles, and fireworks are prohibited on floats and tow vehicles.

6. Rider Safety- All participants riding on open floats shall have solid sitting arrangement with hand holds readily available to them. Any standing participants shall have stabilized body support with buckled safety belt or other means to prevent falling from the unit. No person shall be wired or tied to the float. Secured safety rails, barriers, or ropes may be used to prevent a fall from the float. No unsecured riders may be located where they might fall beneath the float, its wheels or between tow vehicle and float (e.g.) no seating on rear edge of tow vehicle or on front edge of float) If present, children must be under adult supervision and seated at all times when in motion. Riders are to remain on float once parade begins and at all time when the float is in motion. Alcohol consumption or smoking on the float is prohibited.

7. Driver- Float driver shall have a valid driver's license and be in competent condition to safety operate the vehicle. Driving under the influence of drugs or intoxicants is prohibited. For safety of float riders, the driver must minimize abrupt starts and stops. The float safety checklist must be in the possession of the driver.

8. Generators- Where used, generators shall securely mounted on the vehicle with not less than 12 inches of clearance separating it from any combustible material. Any generator in a confined space (e.g. pick-up camper shell) shall not have any riders inside same space.

9. Electrical System- Where used for lighting, motorized decorations or other application on float, electrical wiring must be of a type approved for the use for which it is being employed, shall have sufficient capacity, shall be secured to prevent damage, shall have all connections secured via approved devices (or electrical boxes) and shall be properly fused. No bare wires or exposed electric connection are permitted.

10. Speed- Towed and self propelled floats shall be capable of maintaining a minimum speed of 10 miles per hour during parade. The speed when float is occupied during parade is limited to a maximum of 20 miles per hour.

11. Towing Safety- Adequate primary (tow bar) and secondary connection (chain, cable, etc) devices shall be made between the towing vehicle and float. All connections shall comply with any and all applicable laws and standards. Primary and secondary connections shall be appropriate for the normal and anticipated loads.

12. General Safety Rules- Hard objects, candy, boxes, etc, should not be thrown from the float during the parade. Parade participants wishing to provide give-aways should have walkers along the float to HAND OUT the give-aways. DO NOT THROW ITEMS INTO CROWD.

Inspection

All floats will be subject to an inspection check for compliance with the float safety requirements prior to commencement of parade. The float safety checklist must be signed and in the possession of the driver at the start of the parade.

Jurisdiction

Any matter of safety not covered in these rules can be reviewed and required to be corrected by any member of the Homecoming Parade Committee. Matters considered hazardous to extent that they may pose a risk to participants or public are to be corrected. Failure to correct the hazard identified can result in the removal of the float from the parade.

If there are any questions on the above requirements, please call Environmental Health & Safety @ 7-3129