

City of Costa Mesa
Development Services Department
Policy and Procedure

Policy No:	B-12-1	Effective Date: 7-12 <i>(revised 7/13/12)</i>
Subject:	Fireworks Booths	
Implements:	Verbal Directions	
Approved by:	_____ Khanh Nguyen Building Official	

Policy:

To establish a procedure regarding the permit issuance and inspection of Fireworks Booths.

During the summer season, the Building Division receives many applications for building and electrical permits for fireworks stands. Historically this division has issued them and performed field inspections primarily to insure that:

1. The temporary electrical systems (with receptacles) were installed safely and that the location of the small generator was not located too close to the temporary structure, since the generators are filled with gasoline.
2. The temporary structure was installed per the approved site plan.

Effective immediately, this division will no longer issue an electrical permit (except when receptacles are installed) or a building permit for fireworks stands. The justification for this decision is described below:

Electrical Permit:

Section 89.108.41 of the 2010 California Electrical Code provides an exemption for "Listed cord and plug connected temporary decorative lighting systems". So, temporary lighting systems without receptacles will not require an electrical permit.

If the fireworks vendor chooses to install electrical receptacles, the Building Division staff will issue an electrical permit. This permit may be obtained by the owner, and Electrical Contractor or the Fireworks vendor. Since the Fireworks vendor is leasing the property for a short time, our approach will be the same as a tenant in a mall who is authorized to obtain permits.

Inspection procedure: The Building Division staff will perform the electrical inspection. The Building Division staff will inspect two aspects of the electrical system:

1. Hazardous wiring: inspect the system for any exposed electrical wires which will cause injury. This is the same process that the Fire Dept. staff uses during annual inspections when looking for extension cords or hazardous wiring etc.
2. Test the GFCI receptacle: Push the “test” button located on the face of the receptacle. The “reset” button should pop out. Plug a device into the GFCI receptacle in order to verify that the electricity has been disconnected (internally). This is the correct procedure for testing a GFCI receptacle. Plug in type testers do not always give an accurate reading due to the internal circuitry of the small generators that are commonly used.

The Fire Dept has also agreed to inform this division should they discover that the fireworks vendors are installing receptacles in a booth that does not have an electrical permit.

Building Permit:

Section 108 of the 2010 California Building Code, TEMPORARY STRUCTURES AND USES, states:

108.1 General. The *building official* **is** authorized to issue a *permit* for temporary structures and temporary uses. Such *permits* shall be limited as to time of service, but shall not be permitted for more than 180 days. The *building official* is authorized to grant extensions for demonstrated cause.

As you can see this language is “permissive” (does not say shall) which means that the Building Official may also decide not to issue a permit for a temporary structure. This logic has been traditionally applied to fruit stands with a roof, outdoor kiosks in shopping centers with a roof and other similar occupied structures that are temporary and do not have a foundation system.

Please make this policy available to the public when you receive phone calls or contact at the public counter. A version of this policy will also be placed on our website.