



CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Marshal Division

Information Bulletin

Cannon Demonstrations & Live Fire

Cannon demonstrations and live fire events provide an opportunity for the spectators to experience history in action. These events are an important reminder of our past, but adequate safety measures must be in place to ensure the safety of the public and emergency responders. The following information is provided as general reminders to those considering in conducting this type of activity:

- 1) All equipment must be in good condition and under the supervision of an experienced crew.
- 2) Cannon fire conducted in conjunction with an event or commemorative activity shall be coordinated through a designated committee. Participants must register through and coordinate with the designated committee.
- 3) A safety perimeter of not less than 50' to the sides and rear of the piece and not less than 110' yards downrange must be established. These perimeters are based on the firing of blank charges.
- 4) Sites must be equipped with a fire extinguisher rated not less than 2A:10B:C. The extinguisher must be manufactured within the last year or have a current service tag from a licensed fire protection vendor. Extinguishers shall be placed so they are accessible within 75' of all points in the event area.
- 5) Adequate measures must be established for crowd control. This may include designated staff to monitor spectators or other means to control the access by the public.
- 6) Cannoneers must have an established drill manual.
- 7) Safety requirements, inspections, and procedures must be in accordance with the National Civil War Artillery Association or similar organization.
- 8) The cannon crew must have an established inspection checklist that is completed and retained on site prior to firing of the cannon.
- 9) All firing locations must be approved well in advance of the event. The inherent safety of the site and the impact to residents must be considered.
- 10) A Special Event Permit may be required. Please contact the Department of Recreation at (843)724-7470 to review permitting requirements.
- 11) Storage of black powder in excess of 50 lbs will require a storage permit and may require appropriate magazines in accordance with the International Fire Code.

Please contact the Charleston Fire Department – Fire Marshal Division at (843)724-3429 with any questions, comments, or concerns. We look forward to working with you in maintaining a safe environment citizens and emergency responders.