



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Julie L. Heckman
American Pyrotechnics Association
(301) 907-8181
jheckman@americanpyro.com

**Industry Group Issues Checklists to Aid
In the Safe Use of Indoor Pyrotechnics**

Bethesda, Maryland - April 20, 2004 -The American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) has prepared a series of Checklists to highlight the procedures that should be followed when indoor “proximate” pyrotechnics are used. The checklists are available free of charge as a download from APA’s website www.americanpyro.com

Recognizing the need for reliable information to assist in preparing for the use of proximate pyrotechnics, the APA is offering the checklists to better educate pyrotechnicians, venue management, production companies, and fire marshals or other authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ) over an event incorporating proximate pyrotechnics. “These Checklists complement the recommendations previously issued by the APA in March 2003, to venue and meeting planners, hotel, theaters, stadiums, etc., that wish to use proximate pyrotechnics to enhance their events,” said Julie L. Heckman, Executive Director of the APA.

Heckman noted that the APA is reaching out especially to the fire and code enforcement communities to help them meet the challenges of inspecting facilities where indoor proximate pyrotechnics are being planned. The APA recognizes that AHJs are tasked with enforcing hundreds of codes and do not always have a pyrotechnics or fireworks-specific expert in place for handling these unique inspections. “The professional pyrotechnics industry has so much expertise to lend in terms of proper and safe discharge of indoor pyrotechnics, and we want the enforcement community to call upon us for guidance,” said Heckman.

For more than 30 years, proximate pyrotechnics have safely entertained millions of spectators by enhancing theatrical productions, rock concerts, sporting events, ice shows, and political conventions. The use of proximate pyrotechnics is widespread and has become increasingly popular during the past several years. The increased popularity highlights the critical need for strict adherence to safety standards that ensure spectator safety. Heckman recommended, “play it safe when planning an indoor pyrotechnics event and employ the services of a professional pyrotechnics company or a certified pyrotechnics operator.”

About the American Pyrotechnics Association

The APA is the leading trade association of the pyrotechnics industry. The association supports and promotes safety standards for all aspects of pyrotechnics. Its diverse membership includes regulated and licensed manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, importers and suppliers of pyrotechnics, and professional public display companies. Additional information on the pyrotechnics industry can be found on APA's website www.americanpyro.com

About Indoor or Proximate Pyrotechnics

While there are no national certification and licensing requirements for pyrotechnic operators, many states have implemented certification or licensing programs. Professional pyrotechnic companies have licenses issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) with regard to manufacture or distribution of pyrotechnic materials.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1126, *Standard for Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience*, is the national consensus code applicable to indoor pyrotechnics as well as outdoor fireworks displays when the audience is "proximate" or closer than would be permitted for outdoor aerial fireworks displays. While the NFPA 1126 Standard has not been adopted in every state, the APA deems this standard to be the prudent operator's definitive guide and urges members of the industry to strictly comply with the Standard.

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