

# Fire Performance / Burnable Art Policy

The Dangerous Art Department wishes to ensure that artists are able to create art that preserves the unique flavor of our events. Our fire performer policies are designed to protect performers, participants and the land around the event.

## Fire Spinning

- Fire performances, whether scheduled or impromptu, can only be staged in areas where fire is allowed. Fire performance is not allowed in areas which have not been cleared of vegetation. Fire performers absolutely must have designated fire safety personnel whenever/wherever they perform. Fire “safeties” must have some means of putting out a fire (e.g., wet towel, fire blanket or extinguisher) in hand and be completely sober. Please give fire performers plenty of space (25 feet minimum) and do not talk to them while they are performing. Children (under 18) engaging in fire play, must be supervised by their legal or designated guardian. Fire performers performing without safeties, in areas where fire is not allowed, or while intoxicated will be asked to stop, and may have their ticket revoked, resulting in eviction from the event. Spinning outside designated areas or without “Safeties” poses a serious risk of causing injury to performers and nearby participants, and the risk of igniting a wildfire. In flagrant cases, proceedings may be initiated to evict the violator from the event without any warnings.

## Flame Effects

- If your art (whether stationary or on an art car) includes flame effects (flammable compressed gas), you must present your system for inspection to the Dangerous Art Department in order to be allowed to use your flame effect during the event. In order to ensure your art is built safely and will be allowed to operate, refer to [Burning Man's guidelines for Flame Effects](#). Depending on the nature of your project, you may be required to submit your art for inspection by Dangerous Art Department representatives before operating it at the event.

## Burning Art Structures

- Event participants make up fire safety staff that will be supervising the burning of our fire art. Everyone is required to stay behind safety perimeters and must follow the instructions of fire safety personnel and Rangers during bonfires or fire performances. Rangers and fire safety personnel are there to support the participants and the event to minimize harm or other tragic consequences. If any participant breaches the perimeter around a burn sufficiently to require intervention by Rangers, that participant may have their ticket revoked, resulting in eviction from the event.
- **APPROVAL REQUIRED:** If your art involves fire (with the exception of fire performers) you will be required to seek approval from the Dangerous Art Department prior to installing, burning, or operating it

at Element 11. This applies to bonfires, effigies, structures, flame effects, mutant vehicles, and any burn platforms or containers larger than a 55-gallon drum. Some projects may require inspection in situ prior to approval; others may be approved based on the plan and details as laid out in the piece's registration.

- **IGNITION SAFETY:** Gasoline or other high volatility fuels, may not be used to ignite fuel fires, as they tend to cause dangerous explosions, and may only be used as part of a larger effigy burn plan. It is recommended to use liquid paraffin or charcoal lighter fluid be used for ignition. You must present your burn/ignition plan by a member of the Dangerous Art Department before instituting it, or your burn will not be able to go forward.
- **PERIMETERS:** Rangers will need to be able to create a perimeter around any structures or art pieces that are to be burned. Without the approval of the Event Incident Commander, you will not be allowed to burn your structure. Perimeter distances change depending on the size of the structure as well as anticipated heat of the fire itself. Ranger operations take priority in the first 25 feet inside the perimeter, and your show may not interfere with their function. No performers or VIPs will be allowed inside the Second Perimeter ("No Man's Land"). Please take this into account when designing any pre-burn shows or burn elements.
- **BURN HANDOFF:** The Effigy Artist must be available (Sober) for Engine 11 and/or the Fire Marshall to hand off responsibility of the burn, once the burn has been deemed safe for the perimeter to be dropped. If not, the fire will be extinguished.
- **CLEAN UP:** In order to be able to burn your art, you must have submitted a Leave No Trace plan with the Elemental Public Works department. After ignition, you must stay with the fire until all flames and smoke are extinguished completely. You are responsible to fully clean up your burn scar. Leave no evidence of your burn. YOU MUST provide necessary fire extinguishers.

**Content Updated: 2022-03-10 [JM, DP]**