



Flares and Pyrotechnic Articles Policy

V1.3

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to act as guidance for the searching, safe handling and disposal of flares and pyrotechnic articles (including, but not limited to, handheld distress flares, smoke emitting pyrotechnics, single use launch distress flares and flashbangs).

2. Rationale

An increase in the use of flares and pyrotechnic articles has been recognised across the music event industry (IQ Magazine, 2016, Cornwall Music Network, 2016). Vespasian Security has witnessed at several of its events the increased confiscation and unpermitted use of these devices and is conscious of the danger to both the safety of the public as well as its staff when either in proximity to these devices or in the direct handling of them. Guidance is taken from The Sports Ground Safety Authority (2013)

3. Searching

- 3.1. All team members will be briefed on the description of known flares and pyrotechnic articles both prior to deployment as well as during shift.
- 3.2. Bag searches will be in operation to reduce risk of flares and pyrotechnic articles being brought onto site.
- 3.3. In accordance with the Festival terms of entry members of the public may be searched whilst within the Festival footprint to ensure that any such devices are not being brought into the site. Those either refusing search or found to be in possession of such devices may be referred to the Police and/or asked to leave site.
- 3.4. Any confiscated flares or pyrotechnic articles will be handled in accordance with section 5 of this policy.

4. Deployed Flares and Pyrotechnic Articles

In any instance of a flare or pyrotechnic article being operated within the footprint of the Festival the following procedures are in place to ensure the safety of Vespasian Staff, Festival workers and members of the public

- 4.1. Upon witnessing any use of a flare or pyrotechnic article a call will be made to Vespasian's radio controller to inform them. Normally this call will be made from the Front of Stage Pit Barrier radio operator.
- 4.2. A response team will be deployed to monitor the flare or pyrotechnic article and to seek the operator.
- 4.3. Once the flare or pyrotechnic article has self extinguished the response team will extradite the person and extinguished flare or pyrotechnic article (in accordance with section 5 of this policy) to a predetermined location for ejection (in accordance with the Ejection Policy). Under no circumstance will Vespasian Security tackle a live flare or pyrotechnic article whilst in the hands of the operator (unless there is immediate threat to life or risk of severe injury).

- 4.4. If the flare or pyrotechnic article operator disposes of the live or extinguished device by throwing into the crowd a call will be made to Vespasian's radio controller so that medics can be made aware of any issues arising (such as burns, concussion etc), as well as any onsite fire cover provision. The location of the disposed flare will be monitored for any sign of distress or injury, and dealt with accordingly.
- 4.5. Any live flare or pyrotechnic article that is thrown either onto the stage or into the Front of House Stage Barrier will be dealt with in accordance of section 5 of this policy.

5. Safe Handling and Disposal

It is recognised that handheld flares can burn in excess of 1000°C so pose a significant risk to the initial operator, the crowd around the lit flare and the associated team members. Similarly the heat used to start the initial reaction of a smoke emitting device may cause severe burns. Although the smoke 'burns cold' the adverse effect of smoke may pose a risk to health. In order to minimise these risks the following safe handling and disposal methods shall be followed at all times;

- 5.1. All response teams will be issued with a heat resistant glove and a pair of safety spectacles. These are to be worn whilst dealing with any flare or pyrotechnic article. The FoSPB 'boss' will also be issued with a pair of heat resistant gloves and safety spectacles.
- 5.2. For flares and pyrotechnic article that have extinguished: These are to be carried at arms length above the head until an area of safety has been reached, or until the risk of injury to others has been reduced (ie from a dense crowd to an open area).
- 5.3. For flares and pyrotechnic article that are still live: These are to be left in situ until fully extinguished, and then section 5.2 to be followed UNLESS there is immediate danger to life or serious injury. In these instances the team member is to hold the flare or pyrotechnic article above their head at arm's length whilst other teams members move people away from the local area.
- 5.4. For flares and pyrotechnic article found during a search: These are to be moved to an area of safety and stored 'live end' down in a metal bucket of sand. Any person found in possession of a flare or pyrotechnic article during a search may be refused entry to the site.
- 5.5. For flares and pyrotechnic article that are thrown whilst ignited onto the stage or FoSPB: These are to be handled in accordance with section 5.3 (ensuring that there is a safe distance maintained at all times). Once extinguished the flare or pyrotechnic article will be stored in a metal bucket of sand for disposal after the event.
- 5.6. Any medical assistance that is required will be radioed to Security Control and medical teams will be deployed accordingly.

5.7. Team members are to ensure their own safety and wellbieng at all times.

6. References

Cornwall Music Network. (2016, April 29). *Flares becoming a burning issue for Live Industry*. Retrieved from Cornwall Music Network: <http://www.cornwallmusic.co.uk/2016/04/flares-become-a-burning-issue-for-live-industry/>

IQ Magazine. (2016, April 26). *Industry throws its support behind UK flare ban*. Retrieved from Live Music Intelligence: <http://www.iq-mag.net/2016/04/music-industry-throws-support-behind-uk-flare-firework-ban/#.V6nUYpgrKUK>

Sports Ground Safety Authority. (2013). *Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) Guidance regarding the handling of pyrotechnics (flares, smoke bombs and fireworks) in sports grounds*. Retrieved from Safety at Sports Grounds: <http://www.safetyatsportsgrounds.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/handling-pyrotechnics.pdf>

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