



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

**DATE:** June 20, 2013

**TO:** Fireworks Display Operators, Pyrotechnicians, Designated Individuals, and Sponsors

**SUBJECT:** Display Site Radius and Separation Distances for Aerial Fireworks Displays

This letter serves as a reminder that effective March 1, 2011, the minimum required clearances and separation distances for aerial fireworks displays conducted in Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna are as follows:

### **Display Site Radius**

In accordance with Section 3308.4 of the *Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC)*, spectators, spectator parking areas, and dwellings, buildings or structures shall not be located in the display site. The site for the outdoor land and water display shall be at least 100 ft/in. radius of internal mortar diameter of the largest shell to be fired as shown in *SFPC* Table 3308.4.

### **Separation Distance for Chain-fused Multi-tube Aerial Devices**

The minimum separation distance from chain-fused multi-tube aerial devices (i.e., cakes) to spectators, spectator parking areas, and dwellings, buildings, or structures shall be twice the distance listed in Section 3308.4 of the *Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC)* for the largest shell, comet, or mine to be fired. This increased minimum separation distance for chain-fused multi-tube aerial devices shall remain in effect until further notice, and is in accordance with sections 5.1.1.2 and 5.1.3.3.2 of *NFPA 1123, Code for Fireworks Display*, 2006 Edition.

Thank you for your attention to this important code compliance issue.

Sincerely,

*(signature on file)*

Deputy Fire Marshal Michael T. Reilly  
Office of the Fire Marshal  
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

