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PYROTECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION IN VIRGINIA

Pursuant to § 27-97 of the Code of Virginia (COV), the Fire Prevention Code will now require at least one person at each fireworks display be certified by the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) as a Pyrotechnician. As defined in § 27-97 of the COV, the use of "permissible fireworks" is exempt from Pyrotechnician certification. Also, pursuant to § 27-97.2 of the COV, the SFMO requires a national criminal history record information check for any applicant seeking certification as a fireworks operator or pyrotechnician. Each applicant shall submit fingerprint cards to the SFMO fingerprint on cards provided by the SFMO with personal descriptive information to be forwarded through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining a national criminal history record check on each applicant. Subsequently, in accordance with § 27-97 of the COV, the SFMO will deny certification as a fireworks operator or pyrotechnician if the applicant has been convicted of any felony.

Visit the Virginia Department of Fire Programs website for publications and forms associated with the Virginia Pyrotechnician certification program. Questions about certification requirements and the application process should be directed to the State Fire Marshal at 804-371-0220.

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