

**11.2.24 PARADE FLOAT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR
HOMECOMING**

PURPOSE:

This document sets forth certain safety requirements to assist in the safe construction and operation of parade floats for the homecoming parade.

SCOPE:

This document applies to all persons (full or part time employees, students, and visitors) entering floats to be displayed during the homecoming parade and parade ceremonies.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. Floats must be structurally sound and safely designed. The main platform must have no holes or hollow areas that might allow someone to fall through. All riders must remain seated or, if standing, have a secure handhold (railing, pole, handle, etc.)
- B. There must be no exposed rebar, nail heads, staples, chicken wire ends, etc., in areas expected to come in contact with people. Use proper nail lengths or bend the ends. This will apply to post parade status of the float.
- C. Attempt to purchase only materials that are flame resistant. Materials such as crepe paper, foil, etc., can be purchased flame resistant. Do not use facial tissue-type paper, straw, or fodder.
- D. Any use of fire or open flame on a float during the parade is prohibited.
- E. No decorations may be placed on lights or around heating and electrical equipment. Any electrical cords must be properly installed, protected, and in good repair.
- F. For the safety of parade participants and the general public, vehicles larger than vans, pick-ups, and SUVs used to tow floats, may be denied entry into the parade. Risk Management reserves the right to deny the use of any towing vehicle in the parade. If your vehicle is questionable concerning these guidelines, please contact a representative of Risk Management for approval of the vehicle's use in the parade.
- G. All self-propelled floats must have a properly installed manufacturer's engine compartment hood. An exposed engine compartment has the potential to compromise the integrity of the vehicle's ability to operate properly. Removing the hood also exposes the float occupants to the engine's moving parts and increases the potential for an engine related fire.
- H. The design of the float should emphasize protection for anyone who will be riding underneath, inside or on top of the float during the parade. Issues to consider include:

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1. Provide emergency exits – access points that can be opened immediately from the inside or the outside without tools.
 2. Ample ventilation for removal of vehicle and power generator exhaust – exhaust pipes should be in good repair and not discharge in a way that directly exposes any float rider.
 3. If carbon dioxide extinguishers or dry ice are used for creating “smoke”, drivers and riders must be provided with adequate ventilation and protection from exposure.
 4. 180 degree unrestricted view, and good communication for the driver must be maintained at all times.
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- I. A fire extinguisher must be provided on each float. An inexpensive ABC type fire extinguisher should be purchased for this use. Do not remove extinguishers from residence halls or academic buildings.
 - J. Safety blocks for tires must be provided on each float. Scrap wood (4” x 4” or larger should be sufficient). However, make certain that the blocks are large enough to hold the float on a significant incline.
 - K. Horses are not allowed to pull the float. Wagons and/or floats may not be pulled by “human power”, because hills can present special concerns for safety.
 - L. Any decorations or debris falling off the floats should be picked up by the organization and not left to litter campus, city, or county roads.
 - M. Floats that are self-propelled must be D.O.T. legal (lights, turn signals, etc.) to drive from the build site to the parade line up. Those floats that are not legal must be towed from the build site to the parade line up.
 - N. All fueling of combustible engines must be done prior to arriving at the parade line up. There is to be no excess flammable liquids (stored gas containers) on the floats or towing vehicles during the parade.

FAILURE TO COMPLY:

If any group entering floats into the homecoming parade fails to comply with the provisions set forth in this policy, said group and float may be denied entry into that year’s parade as well as the following year’s parade.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

Baylor University assumes no responsibility for preparation /construction activities that take place off university property; however, the following are recommendations for safe practices during such preparation/construction of parade floats:

- A. The construction site should be well lit for night activities. Continually check the surrounding area for nails, wood scraps and lumber with protruding staples, nails, etc. Wear close-toed shoes at all times while working on and around the float. When using electric power tools in damp weather, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (G.F.C.I.) receptacle to avoid electric shock or serious injury. These can be purchased at most hardware stores.
- B. During construction, combustible supplies and materials used to construct or decorate floats (such as cardboard, paper products and paints) must be stored away from all heat sources. They should not block fire exits.
- C. Waste materials should be discarded in proper dumpsters or by other legal methods. Salvageable material should be neatly stacked in a manner that does not create a hazard. Groups are encouraged to recycle. For additional safety information, please contact the Department of Risk Management at 710-4586.

Formulated:

Reviewed:

Revised: 12/23/10

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Date

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Date

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Dr. Reagan Ramsower
Vice President for Finance and Administration

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