

Edenbridge Bonfire Society

THE FLOAT BUILDERS' CODE 2014

WHAT IS IT? A voluntary Code of Practice, drawn up by past entrants in the Edenbridge Bonfire Procession. The aim is to provide assistance to future participants and to ensure that the event continues to provide enjoyment to all by maintaining minimum standards of construction, organisation and safety. **THESE ARE ONLY SUGGESTIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY IS STILL YOURS!!**

WHY HAVE ONE? We have a procession through the Town every year by the light of hand held torches in front of an audience of thousands of people. The several hundred participants are in fancy dress of all sorts, with many riding on decorated floats. We all know that costumes and floats are made on a shoestring in a short period of time, similarly, that the purpose of the event is for everyone to have a great time. There are obviously some very real risks, to participants, public and adjoining property too, these risks are:-

Fire
Electric shock
Collision
All forms of personal injury

SOME GENERAL RULES:

Between the float builders themselves and the Edenbridge Bonfire Society, these have been ranked as either 'ESSENTIAL', 'RECOMMENDED', or a 'GOOD IDEA'.

SOME NOTES FOR FLOAT DESIGNERS:

ESSENTIAL: Limit the height and width to take account of the banners over the street and the narrow passage past pubs and Town Bridge.

GOOD IDEA: Don't over-fill your float with people! It can restrict safe escape.

RECOMMENDED: Allocate space and people for the tasks of FLOAT STEWARDS. (Children need supervision; others have used a rule of one ADULT for every 12 children under 13 or one ADULT for every 6 pre-school children).

RECOMMENDED: Design in two evacuation routes, preferably at opposing corners of the float.

GOOD IDEA: Provide seats for all children under 11.

RECOMMENDED: Have sturdy handrails around the float, designed to suit the height of those who are on it, whether they are sitting or standing.

RECOMMENDED: Watch the ground clearance! Keep side skirts and any flammable materials off the road in case you run over a torch. 10” or 250 mm seems to be a good figure. **THIS APPLIES EQUALLY TO WALKING PARTIES WHO ARE PUSHING OR CARRYING THINGS.**

GOOD IDEA: Watch out that you don’t “design-in” any trip hazards on the floor.

ESSENTIAL: Plan out your emergency escape routine, and make sure all the **FLOAT STEWARDS** know what to do if you have to clear the float.

SOME NOTES ON ELECTRICITY:

GOOD IDEA: Use 110 volt equipment if you can but this not always easy.

ESSENTIAL: Circuit breakers or fuses are only designed to protect the equipment, not people. All 240 volt generators should have an ELCB or RCCB fitted, these devices are designed to stop electrical shocks and should be fitted **RIGHT BY THE GENERATOR** to give the best protection.

ESSENTIAL: Generators must be **INSTANTLY** accessible, even if you mount them under the float like many builders do.

ESSENTIAL: Don’t leave cables coiled up, they can overheat and catch fire.

RECOMMENDED: Don’t have unprotected light bulbs **OUTSIDE** the line of the float, they can hit trees and other vehicles.

GOOD IDEA: Co-opt an electrician into your working party!

ESSENTIAL: Do not re-fuel your generator in the middle of the Procession. Make sure you have filled them up before you start, if you need to re-fuel your generator do it at the turnaround point and always have a person with a **FOAM TYPE** fire extinguisher at hand and tell the float coordinator what you are doing.

SOME NOTES ON ORGANISATION ON THE NIGHT (Marshals):

ESSENTIAL: The Bonfire Society provides a limited number of **MARSHALLS**, but you should not leave it all to others and must look after your own. Each party should provide at least 4 of their own **ADULT** walking **STEWARDS**, wearing fluorescent waistcoats and with fancy dress limited so it will **NOT** restrict their movement. (This is in addition to the **FLOAT STEWARDS** who should be allocated to ride on the floats).

Safety Marshal

ESSENTIAL: Each entry must appoint a Lead Safety Marshal who must attend the Float builders meeting. Their name and contact details must be given in advance to the Society.

Numbers of Marshals for your Entry (Walking parties);

ESSENTIAL: Walking Party Less than 10 people; 1 – 2 Marshals

Walking Party Greater than 10 people; 2 – 4 or 2 for every 6 meters of entry

Numbers of Marshals for your Entry (Floats);

ESSENTIAL: We need to see a marshal on each corner of the Moving vehicle (especially agricultural tractors) in addition to a pair of marshals for every 6 meters along the length of your entry.

Duties of Marshals

RECOMMENDED Marshals need to wear Hi Viz Jackets, these can be purchased at many DIY shops.

We would ask that one or more carry a simple plant water spray bottle to deal with any spent torch related fires, they really do work. We strongly state that spraying the public with water is a BAD idea.

ESSENTIAL: Your STEWARDS read and understand these notes and that you have a proper discussion on how they will patrol the party and what they have to do.

GOOD IDEA: Your STEWARDS do not carry anything, including collection boxes and especially lighted torches.

RECOMMENDED: No torches are to be carried by ANYONE under the age of 13.

ESSENTIAL: No torches are to be lit on any float or vehicle.

ESSENTIAL All torches should be carried IN FRONT or BEHIND vehicles, and certainly NOT alongside.

EBS will be appointing a safety judge who will walk among the parade judging the safe running of your entry based on the **Float Builders Code** The judge will report back at the end of the evening and will be part of your entry's judging criteria.

If there is serious breach of safety including Marshals not in position you may be directed to leave the Parade by the Senior EBS Marshal and will be excluded from the trophy competitions

We **ALL** want to enjoy the evening and to continue the tradition of the Parade. Please take this matter seriously as the consequences will have a huge effect in the future.

THE STEWARDS ARE THERE TO MAKE SURE YOUR PARTY STICK TO THE RULES AND THAT NEITHER THEY NOR THE PUBLIC CAUSE A RISK.

RECOMMENDED Don't throw things at the public or use water pistols. They will be encouraged to throw things back, and you are out-numbered before you start!

(The Bonfire Society has the right to disqualify any entries whose members are seen throwing objects or who are considered to be endangering others in any way.)

SOME FIRE PRECAUTIONS:

RECOMMENDED Your STEWARDS should take charge of the distribution and safe disposal of all torches for your party, always wait until the torch is out (no flames) before putting it down and put it down at the side of the road carefully do NOT give torches to the general public or any other group.

ESSENTIAL Each float should carry at least 2 fire extinguishers that are mounted at EACH SIDE and at the REAR of the float, accessible from the ground. These are in addition to any others on the float and are for ANYBODY'S USE in an emergency, hence we want to set a standardised location that all will know.

RECOMMENDED The Fire Brigade have made the following recommendations, click on link below:-

<http://www.extinguisheradvice.org.uk/types-of-fire-extinguisher.html>

WATER EXTINGUISHERS these can be used for wood and paper fires but if there are any electrical cables or electrical equipment around NEVER use water.

DRY POWDER TYPE EXTINGUISHERS are good for liquids like oil or petrol fires (the torches are soaked in oil). Be warned that powder is very messy.

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) are the best type if you have any electrical equipment such as generators, electrical cables being used wound up catching fire or sound systems.

RECOMMENDED To sum it up, if you have 2 DRY POWER EXTINGUISHERS for general use and a (CO₂) extinguisher for electrical fires you have all types of fires covered.

Use full size commercial type, not little ones for a car as they run out very quickly.

We cannot get definite guidance on numbers, but surely it must be the more, the better.

ESSENTIAL Make sure that all your designated WALKING STEWARDS and FLOAT STEWARDS can actually USE the extinguishers and know which extinguisher can be used on what type of fire!

FURTHER HELP AND ASSISTANCE:

Walkers and builders are generally a helpful lot, willing to give advice and pass on tips on building floats. They also have developed knowledge of who or where you can go to for free materials or the loan of equipment.

If you need any help in getting going on your float design or need to talk to someone about the parade do not hesitate to contact one of the names below:-

Charles Laver	01732 863120
Malcolm Rogers	01732 863055
Barry Stableford	01732 864135
Peter Johnson	01732 867778

We hope you have an enjoyable and SAFE evening.

Edenbridge Bonfire Society Ltd.