

**NFPA®**

# 1126

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Standard for the  
Use of Pyrotechnics  
Before a Proximate Audience

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**2021**



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## NFPA® 1126

### Standard for the

## Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience

### 2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1126, *Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Special Effects. It was issued by the Standards Council on December 9, 2019, with an effective date of December 24, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1126 was approved as an American National Standard on December 24, 2019.

### Origin and Development of NFPA 1126

The first edition of NFPA 1126, *Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience*, was published in 1992. It was developed by the Pyrotechnics Committee in response to a recognized need for a document to provide guidance to public safety officials for the safe use of pyrotechnic special effects at both indoor and outdoor locations. The purpose of this standard is to provide requirements for reasonable protection for pyrotechnic operators, performers, support personnel, and proximate audiences where pyrotechnic special effects are used indoors and outdoors.

For the 1996 edition, several new definitions were added, including producer and venue manager, that related to requirements in Chapter 4 of the document. In Chapter 5, the requirements relating to labeling of pyrotechnic preloads were revised for clarity and conformance with the *NFPA Manual of Style*. Revisions to Chapter 6 regarding use of pyrotechnics incorporated the tentative interim amendment addressing measures to safeguard the safety of performers.

The 2001 edition represented the first edition completed by the Committee on Special Effects, which now has responsibility for both flame and pyrotechnic special effects before a proximate audience. The previous editions of NFPA 1126 were the responsibility of the Committee on Pyrotechnics, but when the flame special effects activity was initiated (NFPA 160, *Standard for Flame Effects Before an Audience*), NFPA 1126 was assigned to this new committee. The primary revision in the 2001 edition was making the requirements consistent with NFPA's other proximate audience document, NFPA 160, since many users are involved in both types of special effects.

The 2006 edition included a complete revision of the standard, with editorial changes in accordance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents* and several key technical changes. The committee added new definitions and revised existing definitions for consistency with the NFPA Glossary of Terms and with the other pyrotechnics documents. The standard was also revised to include new requirements on operator licensing that makes the document consistent with requirements for flame effect operators.

The 2011 edition incorporated amendments to the Application section to clarify two aspects. First, reference to NFPA 140, *Standard on Motion Picture and Television Production Studio Soundstages, Approved Production Facilities*, and Production Locations, was added to clarify that NFPA 140 applies when pyrotechnics are used in proximate situations where no audience is present. Second, the committee clarified that the use of firearms in motion pictures, television, or other entertainment is not covered by NFPA 1126. The committee modified definitions used by all NFPA pyrotechnics documents for consistency and amended the requirements pertaining to power sources used as part of the firing systems to protect against ground faults in the firing circuitry.

The 2016 edition of NFPA 1126 defined a hybrid flame effect and added requirements for their use. It also indicated which portions of hybrid flame effects are covered by NFPA 1126 and which are covered by NFPA 160, because both documents apply. Annex material was added to provide further guidance on the simultaneous application of the two documents to hybrid flame effects. This edition also clarified when and how special effects are covered in air shows and provided a reference for the use of such effects.