



Kerrville Fire Marshal
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Section 5

Model Rocketry

These guidelines are to be followed when a person, group, or organization proposes to perform an organized model rocketry launch, within the City of Kerrville.

All model rocketry operations, for the purposes of these guidelines and any other guidelines or requirements of the Fire Marshal, shall conform to the *International Fire Code* as adopted and amended by the City of Kerrville, *NFPA 1122*, *NFPA 1125*, *NFPA 1127* and *FAA Title 14 CFR 101.1* thru *101.25*.

This guide does not replace, nor supersede any adopted codes and/or ordinances adopted by the City of Kerrville, or determinations and positions of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal.

General Requirements

1. No model rocket user or rocketry club shall launch any model rockets without a valid permit from the Kerrville Fire Marshal's Office
2. A Range and Ignition Safety Officer (RSO) must be designated.
3. The launch site shall be located outdoors in a clear area, free from tall trees, buildings, power or utility lines, or dry combustibles.
4. Model rocket motors shall not exceed a total power limit/impulse of 320 Newton-seconds (72 pound-seconds).

Model Rocketry Safety Requirements

5. The following safety requirements shall be met:
 - a. Model rockets shall be launched from a stable launch platform or device adequate enough to provide a safe flight path
 - b. The launch platform shall have a blast deflector to prevent the motor exhaust from impinging upon the ground directly. Area around the launch platform shall be cleared of any loose or dry combustibles
 - c. Launching system shall be remotely or electronically controlled
 - d. All persons shall be a minimum of 30 feet from the launching platform at time of launch
 - e. An audible 5 second countdown is required
 - f. Launches shall be discontinued in winds in excess of 20 mph
 - g. Launches shall occur only during daylight hours
 - h. Launch angles shall be within 30 degrees of vertical
 - i. All safety requirements of 14 CFR 101.1 to 101.25, and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR)
6. The permit holder shall be responsible for the safety of all spectators or other persons connected with launching of model rockets.
7. The Fire Marshal may suspend or revoke the Model Rocket Permit at any time and/or when the safety guidelines of the permit are not met, or conditions are unfavorable.

Launch Requirements

8. RSO will check participants parts (non-metallic), recovery (parachute), power limits (<320 N-sec, 72 lb-sec).
9. RSO will also check the Launch Site for cleanliness, size, stable launch platform (provides rigid guidance until it reaches speed), and fire extinguishers.
10. Appropriate safety equipment shall be provided to all launch site personnel.

Submittal Requirements

11. A detailed launch plan must be submitted by the sponsoring organization, and shall include at the minimum the following.
 - a. Identify the RSO
 - b. A site plan/drawing of the proposed launch site area, to include vehicle parking, buildings, obstructions, launch site, launch platform, and roadways
 - c. Method for the disposal of any Hazardous Waste
12. Each submittal shall have a completed Kerrville Fire Marshal Model Rocketry Permit Application.

Additional Requirements

13. Plans approved by the City of Kerrville, Fire Marshal give authorization for operation. Final approvals are subject to field verification. Any approval issued by the Fire Marshal does not release the launch personnel from the responsibility of full compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances relating to the model rocket launch.
14. All installations and/or operations must concur with the approved plans. Any deviation from the approved plans requires a re-submittal to the Fire Marshal.
15. All fire marshal inspection forms and permits shall be kept in a permit packet on the site until completion of event.