CIRCUS SOCIETY FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOL

(For practice only)

Committee’s role:

It is the responsibility of the committee to ensure that Circus Society members and participants are trained through the following practices to keep risk of accidents as low as possible.

Before A Session:

-Advise those attending:

* not to wear synthetic, easily flammable or baggy clothing, recommend tight fitting denim or thick cotton
* not to use aerosols (eg. Hairspray) on the day of the fire session
* bring a hat and means to tie back long hair

-Check all equipment to ensure there are no loose or worn parts

Bring To Every Session:

-Fire blanket

-Fire extinguisher

-First aid kit

-Bucket of water

-Torch

-Dipping pot for paraffin

Fuel

-Only fuel used is paraffin; paraffin burns at a relatively low temperature which helps to minimise the risk of burns. Paraffin has a relatively high flash point (the temperature at which it will ignite from a naked flame) and needs to be soaked into a wick before it will ignite. Paraffin is non-explosive under normal conditions.

-The MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) is kept on file by the Development Coordinator.

Preparation

-Assess conditions

-If it is too windy fire must not be used

-If it is too muddy/slippy underfoot it is not safe to use fire

-Ensure the ground is level clear of tripping hazards

-Ensure the area is away from buildings with no overhanging trees

-Ensure there are no flammable materials nearby including dry grass or leaves

-Establish refill station where:

-paraffin can be kept on a flat surface, in a metal container with a lid on to reduce the risk of spillages

-safety equipment is stored, ready for use

-first aid kit with designated torch is kept

-Ensure everyone present is:

-competent enough with their prop to use fire, even if they have/claim they have used fire before

-wearing appropriate clothing (no synthetic materials)

-a member of the society and therefore covered by insurance

-sober

-Alert everyone to the location of fire safety equipment and first aiders present

-Brief everyone present on the following safe practices:

-Hats must be worn to protect hair

-Equipment must be ‘spun off’ to remove excess paraffin prior to lighting, this must be done away from others or using a special cover to catch the paraffin

-When spinning/breathing fire people must be 4m away from any other people or objects (particularly refill station)

-When fire breathing stand with back to the wind

-Only do tricks you are comfortable doing

During The Session

-Allow only 3 people to use fire at once

-Ensure that those using fire do stay at least 4m away from everyone else

-Ensure that each person using fire has at least one experienced person spotting them to tell them if they get too close to another person/object and to ensure safety procedures can occur as quickly as possible if things go wrong

Fire Breathing

-Ensure everyone participating has tried using water first, even if they have done it before, and uses the correct technique

-Advise everyone to the symptoms of swallowing/inhaling paraffin to ensure that they will seek medical assistance if any of these occur after the session.

-Ensure a damp towel is used to wipe away excess paraffin from mouth and chin before and after fire breathing

-Advise those with facial hair to dampen it before fire breathing

At The End Of A Session

-[Refer to fire equipment Storage protocols at the end of the document]

In Case of Accidents:

Clothing on fire

* Attempt to get the casualty flat on the floor - you may have to physically push them over using a fire blanket. to ensure you do not get exposed to the flames.
* Once the casualty is flat on the floor try to smother the flames. Ideally use a fire blanket or improvise with a woollen or cotton blanket.

-Ensure the casualty’s Airway, Breathing and Circulation are present.

* Cool the burn(s). (see first aid advice below)

NB - DO NOT over cool, you may lower the body temperature too much. DO NOT roll the casualty. Extinguish from the head down.

First Aid For Burns

1. Ensure that the cause of the burn does not endanger your life or that of the casualty.
2. Assess that the casualty is still conscious (if they are not, carry out the ABC of resuscitation).
3. Immediately begin to cool the burn. Continue cooling under water for 10 minutes. NB – DO NOT over cool, you may lower the body temperature too much.
4. If the burn has affected a limb e.g. arm, remove any constrictive items such as watches, rings etc., in anticipation of any swelling.

NB - Do not remove if directly in contact with the burn.

1. Initially cool under running water for 10 minutes or until burning sensation has stopped and then apply a non adhesive sterile dressing:

-Gently remove any rings, watches, belts, shoes or smouldering clothes from the injured area before it begins to swell.

NB – If clothing is burnt onto the wound DO NOT pull off.

* A water based gel soaked sterile dressing is ideal as it helps prevent burn-progression and infection DO NOT
* Burst any blisters.
* Apply adhesive dressings.
* Remove damaged skin.
* Apply ointments/creams.
* Cover with ‘fluffy’ dressings.
* Affix dressing too tightly.
* Apply butter/fats/margarine.
* Remove damaged clothing.
* Apply ice.

Classification For Burns SUPERFICIAL

1. Reddening and discolouration of the skin.
2. Some swelling.
3. Pain.

PARTIAL THICKNESS

1. A combination of discolouration, swelling and blistering of the skin.
2. If any blisters have burst a clear watery fluid may leak from the site (Serum).
3. May involve one or more blisters being formed.
4. Pain.

FULL THICKNESS

1. Pitted/charred appearance.
2. Surrounding skin around burn site may appear wax-like and false.
3. Clear watery fluid may leak directly from the burn site.
4. Blisters may form around the site of the main charred area but not on it.
5. If the skin is badly charred, the casualty may not experience pain as the nerve endings may be destroyed.

Refer Casualty to Hospital if:

* Any Superficial burn covering more than 5% of the body’s surface.
* Any Partial thickness burn covering more than 1% of the body’s surface.
* Any Full thickness burns. Any burns involving children.
* All burns involving feet, hands, face or genital areas.
* All burns that extend around a limb.
* Any burns with a mixed pattern of depth.
* If unsure of depth or severity of burn.

# CIRCUS SOCIETY FIRE EQUIPMENT STORAGE PROTOCOLS

Kit secretary

It will be the responsibility of the Kit secretary to ensure that the proceeding guidelines are known to

, and followed by, all members of Circus Society who have access to the Cage storage area, so as to prevent damage to both the equipment and the storage location itself.

Dousing

-All fire equipment will be made sure to have completely burnt out. This is done by either blowing out the fire or letting all remaining paraffin burn away. All equipment that then continues to smoke will be doused in paraffin to halt any continued smouldering and to ensure integrity of the equipment.\*

Preparation

-All fire equipment (including jugs of paraffin and all storage devices), once safely doused, will be left exposed to an outside environment for a period of 5-10 minutes or until dry to touch, to ensure that there remains little to no paraffin on any equipment involved.

-Only once all equipment is considered safe by the Kit Secretary, will it then be placed inside the airtight containers and sealed immediately and securely

Storage

-Once sealed, all containers will remain sealed while in storage, and while in transit to and from any locations where fire practice will take place. Care will be taken to ensure that the containers are not opened for any reason while not safely on location at fire performances.

\*-Paraffin is used over water as a dousing agent as due to the nature of the materials involved in fire performances getting the wicks wet can damage the integrity of the equipment, causing it to shorten its effective lifespan and introducing difficulties and dangers for future practice.

-It is considered a safe dousing method as the flashpoint of paraffin is much higher than that of the temperature of a smouldering wick, and there is no chance of reignition during this process.