

Guideline to Fire Spinning on the Paddock

Safety Roles

The crew involved in managing the Fire Spinning should have at least two safety people at all times managing the fuel/dipping area and the safety area. All Fire Spinners around and involved should also be keeping a general eye on the people around them, and it is essential for the management crew to be alert. They should clearly communicate with those around them, be able to react in case of emergency, be able to tap out and replace their role if need be.

The Fuel Supervisor oversees the fuel/dipping station. Their priorities are to minimise fire and chemical hazards by managing safe fueling practises. They ensure safe dipping practise (spinning or squeezing excess fuel off props), and assess the person who is coming to spin fire for their capabilities, intoxication levels, that they are wearing safe clothing and that their fire prop is safe to use.

The dipping station should be placed 3m from any naked flames and should be well lit, or the fuel supervisor should be holding a torch.

The Safety should be totally focused on the Fire Spinners, and keeping an eye on the audience is also advised. They should be observing the Spinners for potential hazards, such as clothing, a dropped prop on grass, or audience participants wandering into the Fire Circle. In the event of an emergency, they should be able to take control and act with ease. Keeping the line of sight from the Safety to Spinners is key, and the area should be un-obstructed by other people.

Fire Spinning Circle Requirements

- An open space, clear of obstructions and fire hazards
- A dipping/fuel station managed by a Fuel Supervisor
- A Safety station managed by one or multiple Safeties
- Sufficient lighting for the area and stations
- Lit or marked perimeter for the audience
- Circle should adhere to the distance requirements

Distance Requirements

- Dipping/fuel station should be a minimum of 3m from the circle perimeter and any naked flames
- The circle perimeter should be 10m from any trees or forested areas
- The perimeter must be at least 5-10m from Theme Camp structures
- Area must be clear of any overhanging obstructions or hazards
- Circle must be least 5m away from any other structures (decor, signs, installations, tents etc)

Stations and Equipment

Dipping/Fuel station

The dipping/fuel station is where all chemicals and fuel hazards are stored and interacted with, and where all props are prepared for play. The station must have a manager and be illuminated at all times. It also should be kept clear of people who are not interacting with the station. We strongly recommend all amounts of fuel above 20L should be stored somewhere else in a safe area. Any use of shelite must be especially monitored as it is much more flammable than usual fire fuels. The lid must always be on all bottles of shelite.

Must have:

- Clearly labelled fuel container
- Sufficient lighting for dipping containers/station
- A spill tray for catching excess fuel

Strongly Recommended:

- Tools for transferring fuels (funnels, rubber gloves, squeeze fuel bottle)
- Spin-off containers

Safety/Dousing Station

This is where all the emergency equipment is kept and where all lit props can be doused. It must always be attended by an active Safety, and sometimes it may be necessary to have multiple Safeties and/or stations. Each station should be placed close enough for immediate emergency response, and must be kept clear of any obstructions.

Must Have:

- Fire blanket (Fresh, for emergency use only)
- Another fire blanket or wet towel (for prop extinguishing)
- Fire extinguisher (Dry powder or CO2 only)
- Sufficient lighting

Strongly Recommended:

- Bucket of water
- Basic first aid and burn treatment kit

Fire Spinning on Burn Night

Every Fire Spinner must be inducted by a member of FAST or by someone who has been designated by the FAST team to induct people, ideally someone from the Fire Spinning Theme Camp, Flojo. To be inducted, the performer must have read through the written safety guidelines, and must understand they are not to be intoxicated while spinning, and must also understand where they can be within the perimeter.

After induction, have the person sign off on a safety sheet and give them a clearly visible wristband. It is recommended to meet about an hour before the time to start spinning to allow people to gather, dip their props, prepare themselves, with sufficient time to set up safety zones and performers area.

There should be a performers shute built in to the Perimeter to allow an entrance and exit for Fire Spinners, and also clearly marked fire safety stations positioned around the perimeter where needed.

Pyro performance usually happens as well as fire spinning, and the pyro team should have their own performance shute separate from the Fire Spinners to make sure their props are kept separate from the Fire Spinners' area. It should be discussed with the perimeter managers and Effigy crew how long the fire spinning and pyro performance is go on for. It is important for all parties involved to communicate clearly, and to hopefully notify the performance managers of any time delays as soon as possible.