The Codeword is used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to make clear acceptable practice.

No: CW 5609-001, rev 1

Issued: June 7, 2012

Revised: May 10, 2015

Subject: Fire Control Areas for Retail Fireworks Sites

Code Ref: IFC-2012 Section 5609 and Table 5003.1

Question: What are the requirements for control areas in retail fireworks sites?

Answer: Control areas and approved flame breaks are required in all retail fireworks sites to reduce potential flame spread during a fire. The actual construction requirements are different for each type of retail fireworks site.

For RETAIL STANDS, a fireworks control area may be created through the installation of approved FLAME BREAKS every 8-10 feet. Refer to Section 5609.3.4.8 of the Harris County Fire Code for an example of an approved FLAME BREAK for retail stands.

For RETAIL SITES OTHER THAN STANDS, a fireworks control area must contain a combination of approved FIRE BARRIERS and FLAME BREAKS to create separate control areas and limit the amount of fireworks 1.4G inside each control rea. Fire barriers must have a minimum fire resistance rating of 1-hr, with 3/4-hr resistance for all openings. Refer to Section 5609.4.4.1 of the Harris County Fire Code for an example of an approved FIRE BARRIER.

The use of FIRE BREAKS does not substitute for approved FIRE BARRIERS.

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Building Official
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If you have any questions about this CODEWORD, please contact us at firecode@hcpid.org or fmosupport@fmo.hctx.net