

BPA Firer and Senior Firer – Job descriptions, responsibilities etc

This table is indicative only, but may be useful to BPA companies in developing their own job descriptions and work practices

Issue	Firer's role	Senior Firer's role
Basic role and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist in the setting up, firing and clearing up of the display Other tasks as determined by the senior firer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To act as the company's representative on the display site To ensure the display proceeds with as low a risk as possible To ensure that company policies are adhered to To liaise with organisers on the site on the day of the display To communicate issues to the display company, either from the site or post-display as necessary
When does their role start on (or prior to) the day of the display?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the display site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the display site – although they may also have responsibilities for, for instance, loading the vehicle and adhering to law and company policy regarding transport
When does it end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the display site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On return to the company site – because they will be determining the loading of the vehicle on the way back to base etc
On arrival at the display site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out tasks as determined by the senior firer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To brief all crew prior to work commencing To meet the event organiser at a pre-arranged place and time To liaise with, for instance, the event organiser, security staff, musicians and others about the site, timings, changes to the programme, cues etc To discuss any changes not envisaged at the site visit phase of the planning (even if the senior firer was not the person doing the site visit they should have been suitably briefed) To monitor the weather To determine if the display should be modified (eg position), curtailed (ie material removed) or cancelled in accordance with company policies To ensure that means of communication and protocols are established and tested
Risk assessment issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To perform and behave in accordance with the display risk assessment as advised by the senior firer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the display risk assessment (which may have been prepared by others) in order to ensure that the rigging, firing and de-rigging of the display is carried out with minimum risk and in accordance with the work instructions derived from the display risk assessment To understand the general and site/product specific aspects of the risk assessment To understand constraints that may have been put on the display (eg removal of types/sizes of shells according to conditions) and to act accordingly To monitor and assess and possible adverse effects of weather on the safety and nature of the display

Issue	Firer's role	Senior Firer's role
Prior to firing (ie during rigging and immediately prior to the display)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out tasks as determined by the senior firer • To work in accordance with their training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor the display site at all times to ensure safety and security • To instruct the other members of staff in their duties • To monitor the work of other staff to ensure that it is safe and in accordance with company policies • To check that the firing systems are tested and working • To brief crew about their role and position during firing
During the display	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out tasks as determined by the senior firer which could include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ acting as a "spotter" ○ fire some fireworks (if the display is being fired manually) ○ Communicate with organisers and relay information to the senior firer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To communicate with organisers and others to ensure the display starts on time • To ensure the display proceeds as planned • To monitor the meteorological conditions and curtail or stop the display if necessary • To stop the display, or otherwise react, if the site security is breached • To fire the display (electrically) or to monitor those that do, or to supervise the firing of the display (manually) and ensure that firers proceed with company policies (including provision of PPE) • To communicate any issues with organisers or others
During clearing up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out tasks as determined by the senior firer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure an adequate "cooling off" period before derigging commences • To oversee crew on safe derigging procedures and to advise them on how to deal with misfires or duds according to company policy
Loading the vehicle for return to base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out tasks as determined by the senior firer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that company policy and legal requirements are met for the safe and legal transport of materials back to base (including preparing Road Emergency information and placarding vehicles as appropriate) • To pack the vehicles properly and safely • To supervise crew in their duties • To monitor crew tiredness before allowing them to drive
Prior to leaving the site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To confirm with the event organiser and others that the site is clear to be handed back to them
On return to base		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To report as necessary to company principals (eg display manager) verbally or in writing about the display and any issues that arose
In the event of any incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out tasks as determined by the senior firer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To gather information pertinent to any investigation (eg site layout, wind speed and direction, position of persons etc) • To act as the company's representative in liaison with event organisers, police etc