

PARADE RISK MITIGATION CONSIDERATIONS

The mass violence incident that occurred at the 2022 4th of July parade in [Highland Park, Illinois](#), and the recent shooting of two people and an officer being struck by a fire truck at the [Denver Nuggets victory parade](#), should serve as a critical reminder to law enforcement leaders of the need to adequately prepare for parades. Areas of vulnerability include traffic concerns, crowd considerations, fire hazards, mass violence threats, spectator safety, float design, parade participant behavior, and more.

Parade tragedies are not a new concern:

- A man dressed as Santa Claus, seriously injured, falls from a fire truck, Umatilla, Oregon, December, 2020.¹
- Generator causes the float to engulf in flames, Virginia Beach, Virginia, December 2013.³
- Eight-year-old boy dies, struck by a parade float, Edmond Oklahoma, July 2013.⁴
- Seven-year-old dies, falls off a vehicle in a parade, struck by a float, Annapolis, Maryland, July 2013.⁵
- Man killed, fire truck in parade strikes tractor in a parade, Bangor Maine, July, 2013⁶
- Nineteen injured, multiple shooters open fire during Mother's Day parade, Louisiana, May 2013.⁷
- Four killed, 17 injured, train collides into a parade, Midland Texas, November 2012.⁷
- One killed, 23 injured, horses broke loose and trampled parade attendees, Bellevue, Iowa, July 2010.⁸

Mitigating the risks associated with parades requires strategic and contingency planning, a policy supported by the local government, collaboration, training, and contractual risk transfer.

The Safety Director has developed the [Parade Planning Worksheet](#), which should be utilized by key stakeholders well in advance of any parade event.

The Parade Planning Worksheet is extensive. Organizers of large, complex parades will need to consider many of the risks offered. When planning smaller parades, organizers, may be able to quickly consider and discount some risks; however, the considerations should be reviewed for each parade. Such a review should take place even for re-occurring parades, as often such parades can become larger and more complex year to year.

¹Fireblawg. (2022, December). *Santa sues Oregon fire department for 500K*. Retrieved from Fireblawg: <https://www.firelawblog.com/2022/12/21/20842/>

²Maciag, M. (2013, December 24). *Parade deaths prompt safety recommendations for localities*. GOV - The Future.

³Associated Press. (2013, July 4). *Boy killed by dad driving Fourth of July parade float*. Retrieved from USA Today:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/07/04/oklahoma-parade-death/2490481/>

⁴CBS News. (2013, July 4). *7 year old falls from a vehicle during the Annapolis parade*. Retrieved from CBS News Maryland:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/child-killed-in-annapolis-during-4th-of-july-parade/>

⁵Munich Reinsurance America, Inc. (2014). *Focus On: Parades*. Munich RE.

⁶Ford, D. (2013, May 13). *19 injured in New Orleans Parade Shooting*. Retrieved from CNN: <https://www.cnn.com/2013/05/12/us/louisiana-shooting/index.html>

⁷National Transportation Safety Board. (2013, November 5). *Highway Railroad Grade Crossing Collision, Midland, Texas*. Retrieved from NTSB:

<https://www.nts.gov/investig> CBS News. (2010, July 5).

⁸*Parade horses trample Iowa July 4th Revelers*. Retrieved from CBS News: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/parade-horses-trample-iowa-july-4th-revelers/>