

Method Statement

for use of

Hand Held Fetti/Streamer Cannons



Description

The hand held fetti/streamer cannons consist of a plastic tube approximately 25mm diameter and 450mm long. At one end there is a valve arrangement which allows a small CO₂ cylinder to be attached and then vented by piercing the cylinder end cap using a manual 'trigger'. The other end of the tube is open.

Preparation

With the gas cylinder removed. Insert a lift wadding piece into the tube and using a wooden stick to push down to the end of the tube. Add the desired amount of fetti/streamers. Seal the tube with a card end cap and secure using a single wrap of masking tape. When the cannons are to be passed to the personnel to use them ensure the 'trigger' is in the flat position next to the end valve then screw in the CO₂ cylinder firmly. Using a cannon without a cylinder attached demonstrate the operation to all users and make sure that they are familiar with the operation of the system.

Use

Hold the tube near the valve assembly but not by the CO₂cylinder since that becomes cold during operation. Point the tube away from all other people in the area and away from fragile equipment. Hold the trigger ring pull in the opposite hand and pull firmly and quickly sideways in line with the trigger lever. There will be a hiss of compressed gas and confetti will be ejected out from the front of the tube.

Risk Assessment

There are 3 principle risks from this equipment.

- 1. Cold burns** - If the operator holds onto the gas cylinder during operation it is possible to receive minor cold burns. This risk is removed by holding onto the plastic tube during operation and is highlighted during demonstration of the equipment before handing out to potential users.
- 2. Being hit by fetti/streamers or paper end cap / lift wadding.** If the tube is aimed at another person and fired, it is possible to hit the other person with suitable force to cause injury. This risk is highlighted during the demonstration and all users/personnel are warned not to point the cannons at other people.
- 3. Accidental discharge** - If the trigger is accidentally pulled or knocked it is possible to pierce the gas cylinder. Usually this would be done by personnel learning how to use the cannons and just playing with the trigger. As such they do not generally pull the trigger quickly enough to fully rupture the end of the gas cylinder so a slow gas release occurs and the cannon fails to operate, the expelled gas slowly leaking out of the tube via the cardboard end cap and leaky seals.