

Fire Breathing Risk Assessment

Activity Description: A performer holds a flammable liquid in the mouth and expels it toward an ignition source to create a fire plume.

Hazards Identified:

Hazard	Who's at Risk	Potential Harm
Inhalation/ingestion of fuel	Performer	Poisoning, aspiration pneumonia, lung damage
Burns to face, mouth, hair	Performer	Severe burns, permanent scarring
Fire spread to surroundings	Audience, venue staff, performer	Fire outbreak, property damage, injury
Fuel spillage	Performer, crew	Slips, increased fire load
Ignition source malfunction	Performer, crew	Uncontrolled flames, burns
Inhalation of smoke	Audience and crew	Respiratory irritation
Inadequate PPE or emergency readiness	Everyone	Increased injury severity

Risk Evaluation (Before Controls): Likelihood: High; Severity: High; Overall Risk Level: Very High.

Control Measures:

Training & Competence

- Only trained professionals with experience should perform.
- Regular practice in non-public settings before shows.

Fuel Management

- Use only fuels recommended by safety professionals (low-volatility, non-toxic where possible).
- Store fuels in clearly labeled, sealed metal containers away from ignition sources.
- Do not hold fuel in the mouth for extended periods.
- Never use alcohol or petrol-based fuels.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Wear fire-retardant clothing, hair tied back or covered with a damp fire-resistant hood.
- Keep fire blankets and extinguishers nearby.
- Have a trained fire safety assistant on standby.

Performance Environment

- Maintain safe distance from audience and flammable materials.
- Perform outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- Mark exclusion zones and use barriers where appropriate.

Emergency Planning

- Ensure fire extinguishers (foam or CO₂) and fire blankets are accessible.
- Have first-aid supplies ready, including burn dressings.
- Brief all staff on emergency evacuation procedures.
- Establish a clear signal to stop the performance if something goes wrong.

Risk Evaluation (After Controls): Likelihood: Low–Medium; Severity: High; Overall Risk Level: Medium (Acceptable with strict controls).

Residual Risk: Even with all precautions, there is an inherent high risk due to the nature of fire breathing. Activities should be insured, documented, and approved by relevant local authorities.

Review: Review this risk assessment before each event and update it if any conditions, equipment, or personnel change.

Assessed by: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____