



MOBILE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT FIRE CODE ADMINISTRATION

Public Assembly Tents

Flame Resistance and Structure

All tent and canopy fabric must be flame resistant.

A certificate or other proof of approval by a testing laboratory is acceptable as evidence of the required fire resistance. When applying for a Temporary Structure Permit a copy of the certificate must be provided to Central Permitting.

Tent and canopy suppliers must be able to certify that tents have been erected in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, industry standards, and code requirements.

Floor Covering

The area enclosed by any tent and not less than 10 feet outside of such tent must be cleared of all flammable or combustible material or vegetation, prior to erecting the tent. The premises must be kept free from such flammable or combustible materials during the period for which the area is used.

No hay, straw, shavings, or similar combustible materials are permitted within any tent unless they have been treated to make them flame retardant. A certificate or other proof of approval by a testing laboratory indicating that the material has been properly treated is acceptable as evidence. .

Exits and Occupant Load for Enclosed Tents

Tents that have sides attached and rolled up or are capable of being enclosed must meet these requirements even if it is intended for the tent to remain unenclosed during the event. A canopy with sides is considered a tent.

The number of separate exits required for enclosed tents is based on the floor area of the tent. The maximum number of occupants, called the occupant load, is also based on the floor area of the tent.

<u>Occupant Load (floor area of tent)</u>	<u>Number of Exits (min.)</u>	<u>Minimum width/exit (IN)</u>
49 (343 sq ft) or less	1	36
Between 50 (350 sq ft) and 300 (2100 sq ft)	2	44
Between 300 (2100 sq ft) and 600 (4200 sq ft)	3	60
More than 600 (4200 sq ft)	4 (more exits may be needed)	60

Occupant capacity based on 7 sq ft/person

Fire Protection

One portable fire extinguisher (dry chemical, ABC type) must be furnished at each exit of a tent or canopy.

- **Smoking is prohibited in any tent or canopy.**
- **Cooking is prohibited within a tent.**

Exit Requirements for All Tents

The minimum width of an exit must not be less than 36 inches. Guy wires or guy ropes must not cross an exit at a height of less than 7 feet. Where tents or canopies are placed near fences or other obstructions, a clear exit path must be maintained to an area sufficiently away from the tent. Tent and canopy stakes must be railed off, capped, or covered.

Electrical

The electrical system and equipment must be isolated from the public by proper elevation or guarding. All electrical fuses and switches must be enclosed in approved enclosures. Cables on the ground, in areas traveled by the public must be placed in trenches or protected by approved covers (yellow jackets etc.).

All electrical systems must be properly grounded. Generators must be placed so that exhaust fumes do not enter tents.