

TENTS AND OTHER MEMBRANE STRUCTURES

FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS: 2015 International Fire Code

- 1) Minimum Number of exits per occupant; 2 exits 10-199, 3 exits 200-499, 4 exits 500-999.
- 2) Exit signs shall be installed and illuminated with backup power source.
- 3) Means of egress illumination shall be installed (frog eyes) for emergency power.
- 4) No smoking signs shall be posted.
- 5) 3' foot clearance from all combustibles to tent sidewalls.
- 6) Portable fire extinguishers shall be hung and visible.
- 7) No generators or vehicles shall be parked within 20 feet of tent.
- 8) No Open-Flame Cooking or candles allowed.
- 9) All heating equipment used for heating the tent must be listed for that use and all containers for LP gas need to be a minimum of 10 Ft (1.5m) from the tent and be secured for fall/tip over protection.**
- 10) Any/all heating equipment is to be a minimum of 10 Ft (1.5m) from tent/membrane structure.**
- 11) Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors are required inside the tent. Battery type units are acceptable. 1 of each / +400 sq Ft of coverage.**
- 12) Heating equipment shall comply with the International Mechanical Code and the International Gas Code.
- 13) Tent cannot block access to FDC, FACP, Outside Horn/Strobe or Fire Sprinkler Riser Room.**
- 14) A mandatory inspection shall be completed by the Westminster Fire Department Inspector after the tent is installed and before the start of the event.

3103: Temporary Tents and Membrane Structures

3103.1 General. Tents and membrane structures used for temporary periods shall comply with this section. Other temporary structures erected for a period of 180 days or less shall comply with the International Building Code.

3103.8.2 Location. Tents or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings (> 10000 SQ FT), other tents or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure or tent.

3103.9 Anchorage required. Tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing. Documentation shall be furnished to the fire code official on request.

3104.2 Flame propagation performance treatment. Before a permit is granted, the owner or agent shall file with the fire code official a certificate executed by an approved testing laboratory certifying that the tents and membrane structures and their appurtenances; sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins; floor coverings, bunting and combustible decorative materials and effects, including sawdust when used on floors or passageways, are composed of material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701, and that such flame propagation performance criteria are effective for the period specified by the permit.

3104.3 Label. Membrane structures or tents shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the identification of size and fabric or material type.

3104.4 Certification. An affidavit or affirmation shall be submitted to the fire code official and a copy retained on the premises on which the tent or air-supported structure is located. The affidavit shall attest to the following information relative to the flame propagation performance criteria of the fabric:

1. Names and address of the owners of the tent or air-supported structure.
2. Date the fabric was last treated with flame-retardant solution.
3. Trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment.
4. Name of person or firm treating the material.
5. Name of testing agency and test standard by which the fabric was tested.

3104.5 Combustible materials. Hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials shall not be located within any tent or membrane structure containing an assembly occupancy, except the materials necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for a public performance or exhibit shall not be prohibited provided the sawdust and shavings are kept damp. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under stands or seats at any time.

3104.6 Smoking. Smoking shall not be permitted in tents or membrane structures. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted in accordance with Section 3103.12.6.

3104.7 Open or exposed flame. Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official.

3104.16.2.2 Containers 500 gallons or less. Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of 500 gallons or less shall have a minimum separation between the container and structure of not less than 10 feet.