

## **Tents and Other Membrane Structures**

### **Scope:**

These standards shall apply to Tents, Canopies, and other membrane structures.

### **Definitions:**

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions shall apply:

**Tent** - A shelter, structure or enclosure made of fabric or similar pliable material.

**Membrane Structure** - An air-inflated, air-supported, cable or frame-covered structure as defined by the California Building Code and not otherwise defined as a tent.

**Canopy** - A permanent structure or architectural projection of rigid construction over which a covering is attached that provides weather protection, identity or decoration. A canopy is permitted to be structurally independent or supported by attachment to a building on one or more sides.

### **Permits:**

A tent or temporary membrane structure having an area in of 400 square feet or larger is required to have a building permit. Permits and approvals shall be in accordance with requirements of the local fire code official. CFC section 3103.2

### **Requirements:**

#### **Access, Location, and Parking:**

1. Show location of tents to buildings parking lots, trees and streets. The layout will need to be to scale or show dimensions to all components.
2. Emergency access must be maintained with a minimum width of 20 feet.
3. All structures shall be separated from any property line, building, other tent canopy or temporary membrane structure by a minimum distance of 20 feet.
4. The structure shall be separated from the parking of automobiles or other internal combustion engines by a minimum distance of 30 feet.

### **Flammable and combustible materials:**

5. The storage of flammable or combustible liquids and LP gas shall not be stored in a tent or temporary membrane structure or within 50 feet of any structure.
6. Any gas, solid and liquid fuel burning cooking equipment located outside of a tent, canopy or temporary membrane structure shall be separated from the structure by a minimum width of 30 feet.
7. Floor surfaces inside and the grounds adjacent to or within 30 feet of tents, canopies and temporary membrane structures are to be kept clear of any trash, combustible waste and other flammable materials.

### **Heating equipment, Cooking equipment and Generators:**

8. Any heating and cooking equipment must be separated from any exit, aisle passageway or combustible materials by a minimum of 10 feet.
9. Any heating and cooking equipment must be in accordance with the mechanical code or as approved by the fire chief.
10. Any gas, solid and liquid fuel burning equipment, if approved, shall be vented to the outside air by means of a flue or vent.
11. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means. Electrical cables shall be protected from vehicle traffic and routed or covered so they do not cause a tripping hazard.

### **Signage:**

12. Occupant load sign required to be posted.
13. No Smoking signs are required to be posted in the temporary structure.

### **Fire Extinguishers:**

14. Fire extinguishers require – 200 – 500 square feet of floor area, one 2A:10BC fire extinguisher. 501- 1, 000 square feet of floor area requires two 2A:10BC fire extinguishers. Each additional 2,000 square feet of floor area or fraction thereof requires one 2A:10bc fire extinguisher.
15. At least one 40BC fire extinguisher is required for each kitchen, mess hall, power generator or transformer and at locations where flammable or combustible liquid are used, stored or dispensed.

### **Exits:**

16. Exits: A minimum of two exits with minimum 6 foot width for each required tent and canopies. Three exits are required when 200 or more people and four exits when 500 or more people with minimum of 7 foot width.
17. Exits to be illuminated while the structure is occupied. Appropriate exit signs shall be installed at required exit doorways and where otherwise necessary to clearly indicate the direction of egress when the exit serves occupant load of 50 or more.
18. The required minimum clear width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times to the public way.

### **Other:**

19. Fireworks shall not be used within 100 feet of tents or other temporary membrane structures.
20. Note: Given the indoor and outdoor nature of the celebration crowd control provisions are warranted.

## **Public Assembly and Events**

In accordance with California Fire Code Chapter 4, Section 403 Public Assemblages and Events the following are required:

1. A public safety plan which includes measures for maintaining access to building, structures, fire hydrants, fire department appliances (Post Indicator Valves, Fire Department Connections) fire protection equipment (Sprinkler Risers, Fire Alarm Panels), and utilities.
2. Trained crowd managers are required for facilities or events where more than 1000 persons congregate. The ratio of crowd managers shall be one crowd manager for every 250 persons. The crowd managers shall be trained on how to evacuate the venue in the event of an emergency, how to activate 911, how to clear access and guide emergency responder to the scene of an emergency. Crowd managers shall be easily identifiable, have a means to communicate with the public (above ambient noise levels) and be in communication with each other and the event organizer.