



Requirements for Tents, Canopies and Temporary Membrane Structures per 2022 CFC

Revised 01/01/2023

[Tent Permit Application \(click here\)](#)

PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards needed to obtain a permit to erect temporary membrane structures, tents or canopies.

The Sonoma Valley Fire District Regulates the conditions of tents and membrane structures as they relate to the California Fire Code. The Fire Code does not address the requirements of any pandemic related health orders. The applicant is encouraged to ensure they meet all applicable requirements from other regulatory agencies including the City and County of Sonoma.

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to tents and temporary membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet and canopies in excess of 700 square feet. The requirements are from 2022 California Fire Code (CFC) Chapter 31 and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19.

APPROVAL / PERMIT REQUIRED

3103.2 Approval required. Tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet (37 m²) shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the fire code official.

Exceptions:

1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
2. Tents **open on all sides** that comply with all of the following:
 - 2.1. Individual tents having a maximum size of 700 square feet (65 m²).
 - 2.2. The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm), not exceeding 700 square feet (65 m²) total.
 - 2.3. A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to all structures and other tents.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS APPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED 7 DAYS PRIOR TO EVENT DATE

The following information is required to obtain a permit for a tent, canopy or temporary membrane structure:

1. Any size tent, canopy or membrane structure that is to be erected on **commercial property within the City of**



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Sonoma will require an issued Temporary Use Permit prior to issuance of a SVFD operational permit. For Information on the City of Sonoma Temporary Use Permit visit <https://www.sonomacity.org/>

Tents on **commercial properties in the County areas** are processed by Sonoma County as their required fee schedule for commercial tent permitting includes inspections and compliance.

2. An accurate scale or dimensioned site diagram indicating distances from tents or temporary membrane structures to permanent buildings, access drives, vehicles and parking areas, other tents or canopies, cooking and heating appliances and equipment, property lines and roadways.
3. Specific areas for parking of vehicles shall be detailed on the site plan.
4. Dimensions for all tents, canopies and membrane structures.
5. A statement which identifies the intended use of all structures and the dates for which the permit is required. Dates shall include the specific dates of installation, use and removal.
6. Proposed seating arrangements CFC 3103.11 and Chapter 10
7. Locations and dimensions of tables
8. Locations and types of all other interior obstacles
9. Exit locations; dimensions required for exits as required by CFC 3103.12
10. Exit pathway marked on enclosed diagram. Including means of egress continuity. CFC 3105.7
11. Locations of all aisles and emergency exit pathways to be maintained per CFC 3103.12.5
12. Locations of NO SMOKING signs per CFC 3106.4.5 & Section 310
13. Locations and type of means of egress illumination, including proposed power source(s) per CFC 3103.12.7.
14. Locations and types of EXIT signs, including the means of illumination per CFC 3103.12.6.
15. Location of portable fire extinguishers. (CFC 3107.9 and CFC 906)
16. Flame retardant certificate(s) for tent/canopy material per CFC 3104.2 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. The certificate shall indicate that the floor coverings, tents, membrane structures and their appurtenances, which include sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins, are composed of materials meeting the flame propagation performance of Test Method 2 of NFPA 701. Additionally, it shall indicate that the bunting and combustible decorative materials and effects are composed of material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2 of NFPA 701, as applicable. Alternatively, the materials shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of the applicable test method of NFPA 701. The flame propagation performance criteria shall be effective for the period specified by the permit.
17. Location and width of all-weather fire access roadways. (CFC 3103.8.1)
18. Locations of any additional emergency equipment such as hose lines or water supplies (CFC3107.10)
19. Location and type(s) of proposed heating and/or cooking equipment or open flame devices to be used in conjunction with the event: (CFC 3107.12)



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20. Structural stability and anchorage required. Tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be designed and installed to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing. **Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official.** (CFC 3103.9)

21. The proposed maximum occupant load per CFC 3107.11 and CFC Chapter 10.

Maximum occupant load shall be posted when the occupant load exceeds 50 persons.

ACCESSIBILITY (ADA COMPLIANCE)

"Temporary tents" that are open to the public and affect commerce are considered to be a place of public accommodation and are subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Chapter 11B of the California Building Code.

It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all applicable accessibility requirements. We recommend that a Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) be retained to provide accessibility guidance to applicants, property owners, event planners and installers of temporary tents.

LOCATION & ACCESS

1. Access, location and parking. Access, location and parking for temporary tents and membrane structures shall be in accordance with this section. 3103.8
2. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches 503.2.1
3. Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided in accordance with Section 503.
4. An unobstructed fire break passageway or fire road not less than 12 feet (3658 mm) wide and free from guy ropes or other obstructions shall be maintained on all sides of all tents and membrane structures unless otherwise approved by the fire code official. 3103.8.6
5. Tents or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of lot lines, buildings, 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. CFC 3103.8.2

Exceptions:

1. Separation distance between membrane structures and tents not used for cooking is not required where the aggregate floor area does not exceed 15,000 square feet (1394 m²).
2. Membrane structures or tents need not be separated from buildings when all of the following conditions are met:
 - 2.1. The aggregate floor area of the membrane structure or tent shall not exceed 10,000 square feet (929 m²).
 - 2.2. The aggregate floor area of the building and membrane structure or tent shall not exceed the allowable floor area including increases as indicated in the California Building Code.



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2.3. Required means of egress are provided for both the building and the membrane structure or tent including travel distances.

2.4. Fire apparatus access roads are provided in accordance with Section 503.

6. When approved by the enforcing agency, tents may be located in or on permanent buildings provided such use does not constitute an undue hazard. [California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §312]
7. Vehicles must be parked $\geq 20'$ from tents, membrane structures.
8. Structures in excess of 15,000 square feet – Please see CFC 3103.8.3 50 foot separation required.
9. Connecting corridors. Tents or membrane structures are allowed to be joined together by means of corridors. Exit doors shall be provided at each end of such corridor. On each side of such corridor and approximately opposite each other, there shall be provided openings not less than 12 feet (3658 mm) wide. 3103.8.5
10. Permanent tents, canopies and membrane structures shall also comply with the California Building Code, per CFC Chapter 31

CODE REQUIREMENTS

A. EXITING

1. Requirements Exits shall be spaced at approximately equal intervals around the perimeter of the tent, or membrane.
2. Structure and shall be located such that all points are 100' or less from an exit, per CFC 3103.12.1 through 3103.12.8.
3. Tents, canopies or membrane structures or a usable portion thereof shall have at least one exit and not less than the number of exits required by Table 3103.12.2.
4. Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame resistant curtain, as required by CFC 3103.12.3, and:
 - a. Curtains shall be free sliding on a metal support. The support shall be a minimum of 80" above the floor level at the exit.
 - b. Curtains shall be of a color, or colors, that contrast with the color of the tent.
 - c. Exit doors shall swing in the direction of exit travel. To avoid hazardous air and pressure loss in air-supported membrane structures, such doors shall be automatic closing against operating pressures. Opening force at the door edge shall not exceed 15 pounds.
5. Maintenance of means of egress. The required width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times to a public way. Guy wires, guy ropes and other support members shall not cross a means of egress at a height of less than 8 feet (2438 mm). The surface of means of egress shall be maintained in an approved manner. per 3103.12.8



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**TABLE 3103.12.2
MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS AND MEANS OF
EGRESS WIDTHS FROM TEMPORARY MEMBRANE STRUCTURES AND TENTS**

OCCUPANT LOAD	MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS	MINIMUM WIDTH OF EACH MEANS OF EGRESS (Inches)	MINIMUM WIDTH OF EACH MEANS OF EGRESS (Inches)
		Tent	Membrane Structure
10 to 199	2	72	36
200 to 499	3	72	72
500 to 999	4	96	72
1,000 to 1,999	5	120	96
2,000 to 2,999	6	120	96
Over 3,000 ^a	7	120	96

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. When the occupant load exceeds 3,000, the total width of means of egress (in inches) shall not be less than the total occupant load multiplied by 0.2 inches per person.

6. The width of aisles without fixed seating shall be as follows, per CFC 3103.12.5:

The width of aisles without fixed seating shall be in accordance with the following:

1. In areas serving employees only, the minimum aisle width shall be 24 inches (610 mm) but not less than the width required by the number of employees served.

2. In public areas, smooth-surfaced, unobstructed aisles having a minimum width of not less than 44 inches (1118 mm) shall be provided from seating areas, and aisles shall be progressively increased in width to provide, at all points, not less than 1 foot (305 mm) of aisle width for each 50 persons served by such aisle at that point.

7. The arrangement of aisles shall be subject to approval by the fire code official and shall be maintained clear at all times during occupancy.
8. Exit signage shall be clearly marked per CFC 3103.12.6. Exit signs shall be installed where necessary to clearly identify the direction of travel when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more.
9. EXIT signs shall be either listed or labeled in accordance with UL 924 as the internally illuminated type and used in accordance with the listing, or shall be externally illuminated by luminaires supplied in the following manner:
10. Two separate circuits, one of which shall be separate from all other circuits, for occupant loads of 300 or less; or

Two separate sources of power, one of which shall be an approved emergency system, shall be provided when the occupant load exceeds 300. Emergency systems shall be supplied from storage batteries or from the on-site generator set, and the system shall be installed in accordance with the California Electrical Code and CFC 3103.12.6.1

11. Means of egress shall be illuminated with light having an intensity of not less than 1 foot-candle at floor level while the structure is occupied per CFC 3103.12.7. Fixtures required for means of egress illumination shall be supplied from a separate circuit or source of power.



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12. The required width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times to a public way. Guy wires, guy ropes and other support members shall not cross a means of egress at a height of less than 8'. The surface of means of egress shall be maintained in an approved manner per CFC 3103.12.8.

B. SEATING

1. Assembly occupancies which contain seats, tables, displays, equipment or other material shall meet the requirements of CFC Chapter 10
2. Places of assembly without ramped or tiered floors for seating and with greater than 200 seats, shall have the seats fastened together in groups of not less than three, or the seats shall be securely fastened to the floor per CFC 1018.1

C. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

1. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided. Travel distance to the nearest 2A:10BC extinguisher shall not exceed 75', per CFC 906 and 3107.9
2. Portable fire extinguishers shall be located in conspicuous locations where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for use. These locations shall be along normal paths of travel, unless the fire code official determines that the hazard posed indicates the need for placement away from normal paths of travel, per CFC 906
3. Fire extinguishers provided for the protection of cooking grease fires shall be Class K, per CFC 906
4. Fire protection equipment. Fire hose lines, water supplies and other auxiliary fire equipment shall be maintained at the site in such numbers and sizes as required by the fire code official. CFC 3104.13
5. Each generator location shall be provided with a fire extinguisher with a minimum **40B:C** rating. The extinguisher shall be located near the generator and accessible at all times

D. HEATING AND COOKING EQUIPMENT (food)

1. Heating or cooking equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing, and other related components shall be installed as specified in the CA Mechanical Code and shall be approved by the fire code official.
2. Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials per CFC 3107.12.3
3. Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20' per CFC 3107.12.5
4. Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20' of a tent, canopy or membrane structure per CFC 3107.12.6
5. Operations such as warming of foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations that use solid flammables, butane or other similar devices which do not pose an ignition hazard, shall be approved per CFC 3107.12.4
6. Electrical heating and cooking equipment shall comply with the California Electrical Code per CFC 3107.12.7
7. Open or Exposed Flame - Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or



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combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official. CFC 3107.4

E. TENT HEATERS

Temporary Modified Tent Heating Guide - CV19 - EXPIRED

1. Tent heaters will have heat ducted into the tent and comply with the below CFC Sections.
2. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances. Portable gas-fired heating appliances located outdoors shall be in accordance with Sections 603.4.2.1 through 603.4.2.3.4.
3. Location. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located in accordance with Sections 603.4.2.1.1 through 603.4.2.1.4.
4. Prohibited locations. The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations: 603.4.2.1.1
 - Inside of any occupancy where connected to the fuel gas container.
 - **Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.**
5. 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 (6096 mm) of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official. CFC 3107.4

6. Location Information:

603.4.2.1.2 Clearance to Buildings

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from buildings.

603.4.2.1.3 Clearance to Combustible Materials

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet (1524 mm) to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings.

603.4.2.1.4 Proximity to Exits

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet (1524 mm) of exits or exit discharges.

603.4.2.2 Installation and Operation

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and operated in accordance with Sections 603.4.2.2.1 through 603.4.2.2.4.

603.4.2.2.1 Listing and Approval

Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used.



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603.4.2.2.2 Installation and Maintenance

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

603.4.2.2.3 Tip-Over Switch

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees (0.26 rad) from the vertical.

603.4.2.2.4 Guard Against Contact

The heating element or combustion chamber of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons or material.

F. FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS/GASES

1. Flammable-liquid-fueled equipment shall not be used in tents or membrane structures per CFC 3107.14.1
2. The storage, handling and use of LP-gas and LP-gas equipment shall be in accordance with Sections 3107.13.1 through 3107.13.3.
3. Refueling shall be performed in an approved location not less than 20 feet from tents, canopies or membrane structures per CFC 3104.17.3
4. Flammable and combustible liquids. The storage of flammable and combustible liquids and the use of flammable- liquid-fueled equipment shall be in accordance with Sections 3107.14.1 through 3107.14.3.

G. LP-GAS (propane)

1. LP-gas containers shall be located outside. Safety release valves shall be pointed away from the tent, canopy or membrane structure per CFC 3107.13.2
2. Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of 125 gallons or less shall have a minimum separation between the container and the structure not less than 5', per CFC 6104.3 (124-250gal = 10ft)
3. Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of more than 500 gallons shall have a minimum separation between the container and structures not less than 25', per CFC 6104.3
4. Portable LP-gas containers, piping, valves and fittings which are located outside and are being used to fuel equipment inside a tent, canopy or membrane structure shall be adequately protected to prevent tampering, damage by vehicles or other hazards and shall be located in an approved location. CFC 3107.13.1
5. Portable LP-gas containers shall be securely fastened in place to prevent unauthorized movement, per CFC CFC 3107.13.1.
6. Portable LP-gas containers, piping, valves and fittings which are located outside and are used to fuel equipment inside a tent, canopy, or membrane structure shall be protected to prevent tampering, damage by vehicles or other hazards and shall be located in an approved location.
7. Rubber hoses or flexible metal hoses connecting the LP-gas cylinders with appliances must be approved for propane. The letters "LPG" and the symbol "U/L" on the hose are sufficient evidence of acceptability. Rubber

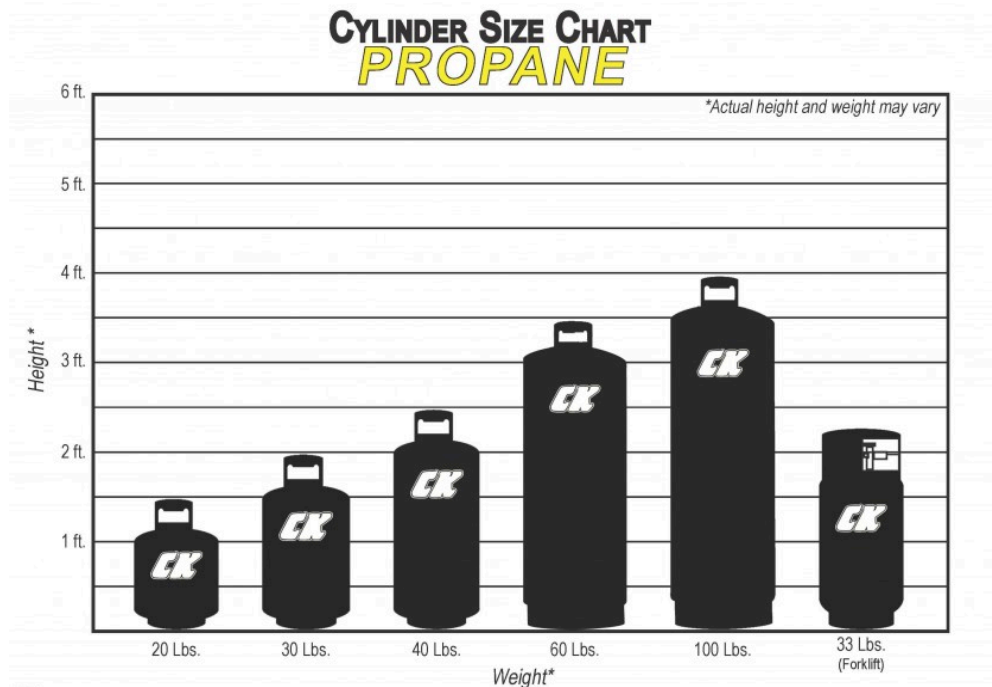


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hoses shall be fitted with factory made metal fittings.

- Shut-off valves shall be provided at each fuel source. Tanks not in use shall be secured with all valves capped.



20lb - 5 gallons / 30lb - 7 gallons / 40lb - 10 gallons

H. DISPLAY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- Liquid- and gas- fueled vehicles and equipment used for display within tents, canopies or membrane structures shall comply with CFC 3107.15.1 through 3107.15.5.3.
- Batteries shall be disconnected in an approved manner. CFC 2107.15.1
- Vehicles or equipment shall not be fueled or defueled within a tent, canopy or membrane structure. CFC 3107.15.2
- Fuel in a fuel tank shall not exceed 25% of the tank capacity or 5 gallons, whichever is less. CFC 3107.15.2.1
- Fuel systems shall be inspected for leaks. CFC 3107.15.2.2
- Fuel tanks openings shall be locked and sealed to prevent escape of vapors. CFC 3107.15.2.3
- Placement of vehicles or equipment shall not obstruct any means of egress. CFC 3107.15.3
- When a compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquefied petroleum gas (LP-gas) powered vehicle is parked inside a place of assembly, all the following conditions shall be met:

The quarter-turn shutoff valve or other shutoff valve on the outlet of the CNG or LP-gas container shall be closed and the engine shall be operated until it stops. Valves shall remain closed while the vehicle is



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indoors.

The hot lead of the battery shall be disconnected.

Dual-fuel vehicles equipped to operate on gasoline and CNG or LP-gas shall comply with this section and Sections 3107.15.1 through 3107.15.3 for gasoline- powered vehicles.

I. HOUSEKEEPING

1. Combustible vegetation shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent, canopy or membrane structure, and from areas within 30' of such structures per CFC 3107.18
2. The floor surface inside tents or membrane structures and the grounds outside and within a 30-foot (9144 mm) perimeter shall be kept free of combustible waste and other combustible materials that could create a fire hazard. Such waste shall be stored in approved containers and removed from the premises not less than once a day during the period the structure is occupied by the public. CFC 3107.19

J. STANDBY PERSONNEL

1. The owners or operators of any tent used as a place of assemblage shall provide at least one qualified fire safety person in every tent having a capacity of 500 persons and one additional qualified person for each 1,000 additional persons or fraction thereof. Such persons shall be on duty in the tent at all times when the tent is open to the public. They shall be proficient in the handling of fire extinguishers and equipment and shall be familiar with the fire and panic safety regulations. The individual designated under this section shall meet the approval of the fire authority having jurisdiction. CFC 3107.17
2. There shall be trained crowd managers or crowd manager supervisors at a ratio of one crowd manager/supervisor for every 250 occupants, as approved. CFC 3107.17.2
3. Duties: Before each performance or the start of such activity, standby personnel shall keep diligent watch for fires during the time such place is open to the public or such activity is being conducted and take prompt measures for extinguishment of fires that occur and assist in the evacuation of the public from the structure. CFC 3107.17.1

K. USE PERIOD

1. Temporary tents, air-supported, air inflated or tensioned membrane structures shall not be erected for a period of more than **180 days within a 12-month period** on a single premises.

L. ANCHORAGE

1. Structural stability and anchorage required. Tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be designed and installed to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official. CFC 3103.9
2. Concrete blocks adequately engineered are the required method in our jurisdiction due to the regular influences of wind. **3103.9.4 Water-Filled Vessels** Water-filled vessels **shall not be used**.

Tents, canopies or membrane structures shall be properly anchored or ballasted in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines, structural calculations or as otherwise approved by the fire code official. The formula $[(L \times W) \times 5\text{lbs}] = \text{total ballast required}$ may be used to determine total ballast for tents and canopies.



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M. GENERATORS / ELECTRICAL POWER

1. Only **Diesel** or **Propane** portable generators are permitted for use during Special Events. Each generator shall have a minimum 40B:C rated fire extinguisher near its location and accessible for use.
2. **Portable gasoline generators (outboard, mounted, or free-standing) are not permitted for use during Outdoor Special Events.**
3. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means. CFC 3107.16
4. Food trucks with pre-plumbed (inboard) gasoline generators are allowed to operate
 - a. provided they are compliant with the California Mechanical and Electrical Codes.
5. Under no circumstances shall gasoline be stored in Food Trucks.
6. Refueling of approved generators is prohibited during event hours. No additional fuel
 - a. shall be stored on site during event hours. During approved refueling times, no smoking or open flames shall be within 25 feet of refueling operations.
7. Extension cords and cables shall be of a grounded type and approved for outdoor use. Extension cords shall not be frayed, worn, or in pedestrian traffic areas unless they are secured. Cables shall be provided with cable ramps.
8. All electrical power shall be in locations free from potential water intrusion and not located near gutters or storm drains.

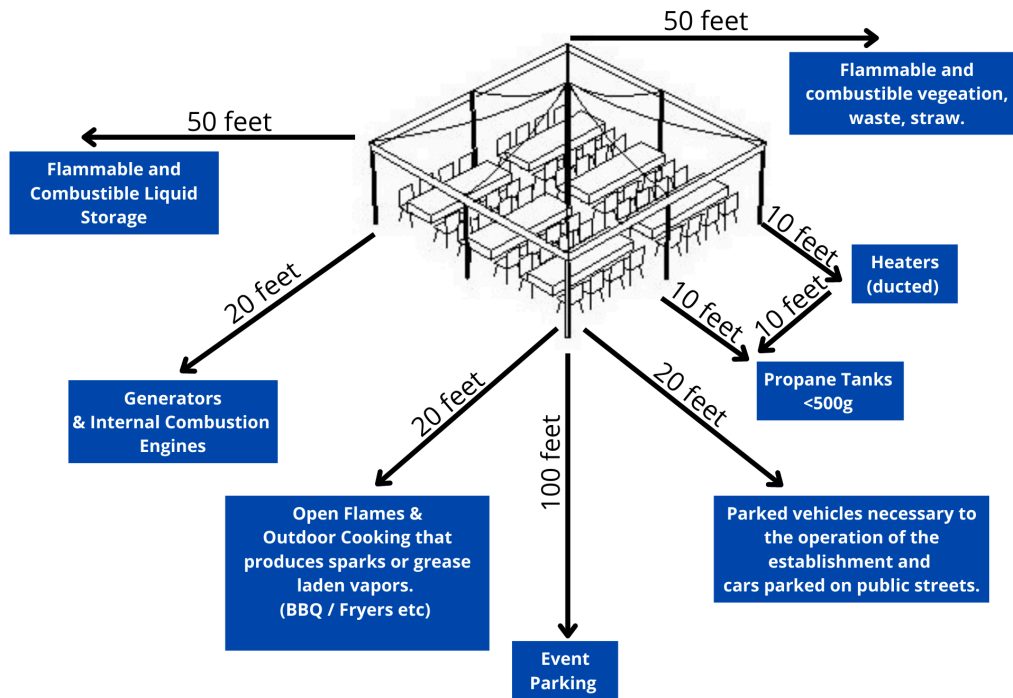
DISTANCE FROM TENT DIAGRAM

This diagram provides general guidance on required distances from some items in relation to the tent. All



distances below shall be measured from ropes or guy wires if present.

Tents open to the public.





CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 20-007

Issued: December 15, 2020

Use of Heaters in Temporary Tents & Awnings

The use of tents and membrane structures have become prevalent within the *State Blueprint for a Safer Economy* for outdoor dining, beverage service, and events when such businesses are required to operate outdoors. CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) encourages expedited approval of designated facilities and operations but reminds everyone that the California Code of Regulations Title 19 and Title 24 continue to remain in effect.

Given the critical nature of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, OSFM is providing expedited certification of tents, permitting tent and/or fabric manufacturers to field label tents after contacting the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and permitting tents to be field treated by a State Fire Marshal certified flame-retardant General Applicator.

The OSFM provides statewide fire prevention regulations for the use of tents, awnings, or other fabric enclosures. Below are some important elements of the statutes and regulations.

Approval of Temporary Tents, and Membrane Structures:

Based on the size of tent, a permit from the local fire department, or OSFM on state property, may likely be required. In addition to these regulations, all state and local public health directives shall also be followed.

Tent and Membrane Structure Materials

California regulations require that all tents manufactured, sold, rented, or used be made from nonflammable material or material treated with a flame-retardant chemical approved by OSFM. Title 19 CCR §1171

Each section of the top and sidewalls of large tents (ten or more occupants) shall have the State Fire Marshal seal of registration label. Small tents (nine or less occupants) may have a registration label meeting the provisions of CPAI-84; otherwise the State Fire Marshal seal of registration label is required. Title 19 CCR §335

Fuel-Fired Heating Appliances

Any heaters with open flame, open flame elements, or exposed heating elements are prohibited from being used inside a tent structure. Title 19 CCR §317. Per manufacture recommendations, these types of appliances should only be used in open outdoor space areas with plenty of air flow.



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Examples of fuel fired appliances include:



Liquefied petroleum gas shall not be stored or used in connection with any tent unless the storage containers, equipment, fittings, appliances, placement, use, and operation comply with Title 19 CCR §325.

Forced air heaters may be used to heat tents and membrane structures as these units are positioned on the outside of a tent with heat pumped in through a duct under the sidewall of the tent. Examples are provided below:



Electric heating appliances

Portable electric heating appliances shall be listed for its specific use and labeled by an approved testing laboratory. All appliances shall be used per the appliance's listing for its approved location and use type. Portable electric heating appliances must also be equipped with a tip-switch cutoff and have concealed heating elements. Heating appliances shall be used in accordance with Title 19 CCR §3.17 and California Electric Code (CEC) Chapter 424.



Code References for Location and Use of Tents, Canopies, and Membrane Structures:

The State Fire Marshal shall prepare and adopt rules and regulations establishing minimum requirements for the prevention of fire and panic in connection with the use of tents, awnings, or other fabric enclosures. Health and Safety Code Section 13116



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Information Bulletin 20-007 (Continued)

Outdoor spaces created on public property must have a permit issued for Temporary Membrane Structures and Tents. The fire code official shall issue a permit and inspect tents, canopies and membrane structures covering an aggregate area of 400 square feet or more. 2019 CFC §105.6.47

A building permit from the Building Department is required for membrane structures for use exceeding 180 days. 2019 CFC §105.3.1

NFPA 701 may be applied when recognized by the authority having jurisdiction. Title 19 CCR §1.09

Tents, canopies, and membrane structures shall not be installed within 20 feet of buildings unless approved by the fire code official. 2019 CFC §3103.8.2

Tents, canopies, and membrane structures shall be installed a minimum of 20 feet from parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. Title 19 CCR §312

There shall be a clearance of not less than 3 feet between the fabric sides of a tent, canopy or membrane structure and all contents located inside the tent, canopy, or membrane structure. 2019 CFC §3107.8

Extension cords serving a tent, canopy or membrane structure must be protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) and must be protected from damage. CEC Table 400.4

Tents and their appurtenances shall be adequately roped, braced, and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official. 2019 CFC §3103.9

Means of egress shall always be maintained. Title 19 CCR §3.11

Flammable vegetation, materials and combustible waste is not permitted within 50 feet of the tent or membrane structure. Title 19 CCR §326

Smoking shall not be permitted in tents. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted. Title 19 CCR §316

Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided. Title 19 CCR §319

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. All generators must be bonded and grounded. 2019 CFC §3107.16

Liquids having a flash point below 200°F shall not be stored in any tent nor less than 50 feet from any tent. Title 19 CCR §324

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>

For assistance in obtaining an approved OSFM Certificate of Registration for tents and flame retardant material assistance, please contact Deputy Patricia Setter, OSFM Flame Retardant Program Coordinator at (916) 597-5703 or email: patricia.setter@fire.ca.gov.