



## BUILDING AND LIFE SAFETY ISSUES FOR TENTS

Multiple safety precautions must be followed to erect a tent or membrane structure.

A building permit is required.

### LOCATION

Tent location must be approved by the AHJ, who is the Building Inspector.

Consideration should be given to the following to ensure the tent:

1. Does not block fire department access.
2. Is not located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings\* or parked cars.
3. Does not block the means of egress from other buildings.
4. Has at least 10 feet distance around the tent free of combustible materials and fuel storage.
5. Has at least 10 feet between stake lines for multiple tents.

\*Separation distance for non-cooking tents and structures not exceeding 15,000 sq. ft. aggregate floor area can be less as per AHJ.

### EGRESS

Means of egress/exits are calculated by the table below:

Occupant Load	Minimum Number of Exits	Tent or Canopy Exit Opening Size	Air-supported Structure Exit Opening Size
10 to 199	2	72 in.	36 in.
200 to 499	3	72 in.	72 in.
500 to 999	4	96 in.	72 in.
1,000 to 1,999	5	120 in.	96 in.
2,000 to 2,999	6	120 in.	96 in.
Over 3,000	7	120 in.	96 in.

(OVER)

## **EXITS**

Exit signs are required if the occupant load is 50 persons or more. Internal illumination and battery back-up is required for a capacity of 300 + people.

## **EGRESS LIGHTS**

Egress lighting is required if the enclosed tent is illuminated OR as determined by the AHJ.

## **ELECTRICAL**

An electrical permit is required if ANY electrical will be used in the tent.

Power distribution equipment must be fenced off or have other barriers as a means of separation from the public, including generators.

All power must be GFCI protected.

All cords must have grounds and surge strips are preferred.

Cords may not be damaged or taped.

All metal tent poles must be bonded as per the NEC.

Tent exits must be illuminated on the exterior of the tent.

Electric heaters may be used if listed for the purpose.

## **TENT RATING**

The tent must meet the flame retardant ratings as required and all tags must be visible on tents.

No smoking is allowed in tents and signs must be posted.

Fire protection equipment is required as follows:

1. 200 to 3,000 sq. ft. of floor area (1) or more 2A-10B: C fire extinguisher.
2. 3,001 to 6,000 sq. ft. of floor area (2) or more 2A-10B: C fire extinguishers.
3. Each additional 3,000 sq. ft. require (1) or more 2A-10B: C fire extinguishers.
4. (1) 40B: C fire extinguisher is required for each kitchen, mess hall, power generator or transformer.

Max distance of travel to a fire extinguisher from any point in the tent shall be 75 feet or as determined by the AHJ. Signage may be required as determined by the AHJ for visibility.

Maximum time for temporary tents to stay erected is 180 days. Regular maintenance of the tent, clear spaces, exits and egress paths and electrical is required throughout the use of the tent. Periodic inspections may be made at any time to ensure compliance.