

Tents/Membrane Structures Guidelines

Tents having an area in excess of 400 sf. (with any side panels), or any tent in excess of 700 sf. (without any side panels) shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a TFD permit and approval from the fire code official.

The following requirements shall be met before the permit will be issued.

1. Structural calculations must be submitted and approved if the tent or temporary membrane structure is over 10,000 sf.
2. A site plan including the following information shall be submitted: all property lines, buildings, accessory buildings and other tents or membrane structures. Plans shall be drawn to scale.
3. A detailed floor plan (to scale), including contents (stages, tables, seating lay-out, aisles, exit and extinguisher locations, etc.) shall be included when the calculated occupant load is 50 or more.
4. If requested by TFD, a copy of all manufacturers' specifications shall be available on-site.
5. The areas shall be free of all dry vegetation and loose combustible materials to within 30 feet of the structure. (This includes all combustible trash material and combustible storage)
6. Adequate aisle spacing and access to properly marked exits shall be provided. All aisles shall be arranged in a straight line to exits and means of egress.
7. Tents, membrane materials, and decorations shall be flame-resistant. (A certificate or label of flame-resistance is required.)

General Requirements for All Tents and Membrane Structures

EXIT SIGNS

- Exit signs shall be installed at all required exits.
- Where exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times the tent is occupied.
- Color and design of lettering, arrows and other symbols shall be in high contrast with their background.

EGRESS LIGHTING

- The means of egress shall be lit at all times that the tent is occupied. During daylight hours natural light may provide the required light. At night additional lighting is required.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING

- When an additional source of lighting is required, emergency lighting shall be provided in case of power failure.
- Emergency lighting is also required in tents; when the occupant load is 50 or greater.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Portable fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 2-A:10-BC are required; located at exits.
- Extinguishers shall be located within 75' travel distance from any portion of the tent.

ANCHORAGE

- All tents and membrane structures, regardless of size, shall be adequately anchored to prevent collapse or movement.
- Structures shall have staked anchor plates, tethered stakes, or other TFD approved ballasting.
- **Tents 400 square feet or larger shall be secured with 2 anchor ropes at each outside corner of the structure.**
- **Each post of all tents shall be anchored in an approved manner.**
- See the TFD Website for minimum anchoring requirements.

OTHER

- "NO SMOKING" signs shall be posted in conspicuous locations in all tents (When Permits required).
- There shall be no propane cylinders or other fuels inside tents.
- Only approved heating devices shall be used,
- There shall be no cooking under tents which utilizes open flames or creates grease vapors.
- **Tents shall not be occupied prior to inspection.**

TENTS USED TO SELL PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS have additional requirements

- Go to: [CFWChecklist.pdf](#); found on the Tucson Fire Department Website

Call the TFD Fire Prevention office, (520) 791-4502, for inspection at least 24 hours before any tent is occupied.

OVERTIME FEES will apply if inspections do not occur between 7:00am - 4:00pm, M-F.

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/fire/permits-resources>