



ALEXANDER COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL

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SPECIAL EVENT INSPECTION CRITERIA

The Alexander County Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for providing a safe environment for Alexander County. The Fire Marshal's Office is mandated to enforce the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code. This includes all businesses and special events throughout the county. In order to provide a safe environment for vendor's and public during special events the following criteria will be met.

TENTS AND MEMBRANE STRUCTURES:

1. **503.2.1** Fire Apparatus road shall be provided and shall have an unobstructed width of not less than twenty (20) feet.
2. **3103.8.2 Location.** Tents or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, other tents or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustible 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.
3. **3103.8.6 Fire Break.** An unobstructed fire break passage or fire road not less than 12 feet 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.
4. **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 of structure stability shall be furnished to the fire code official on request.
5. **3104.4 Flame Propagation performance treatment.** All tents and membrane structures shall have a tag or a certificate executed by an approved testing laboratory certifying that the tent or membrane structure and their appurtenance: sidewalls, drops, and taraulines; floor coverings, bunting, combustible decorative material, and effects, including sawdust where used on floors or passageways, are composed of material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2, as appropriate, of NFPA 701 or CPAI-84 or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of Test Method 1 or Test Method 2 of NFPA 701.
6. **3104.5 Combustible Material.** Combustible materials such as hay, saw dust, and shavings, shall have a minimum clearance of 20 feet from any tent or membrane structure.
7. **3104.6 Smoking.** Smoking shall not be permitted in tents or membrane structure. Approved "No Smoking " signs shall be conspicuously posted.
8. **3104.19 Separation of generators.** Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosures or other approved means.
9. **3104.20 Standby personnel.** Where, in the opinion of the fire code official, it is essential for public safety in a tent or membrane structure used as place of assembly or any other use where people congregate, because of the number of persons, or the nature of the performance, exhibition, display, contest or activity, the owner, agent,

or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved, to remain on duty during the times such places are open to the public, or when such activity is being conducted.

10. **3104.20.1 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.
11. **3104.20.2 Crowd managers.** There shall be trained crowd managers or crowd manager/supervisors at a ratio of one crowd manager/supervisor for every 250 occupants, as approved.
12. **3104.21 Combustible vegetation.** Readily ignitable vegetation that could create a fire hazard shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent or membrane structure, and from areas within 30 feet.
13. **3104.22 Combustible waste material.** The floor surface inside tents or membrane structures and the grounds outside and within a 30 foot perimeter shall be kept free of combustible waste and other combustible material 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.

HEATING AND COOKING EQUIPMENT

1. **3104.15.1 Installation.** Heating or cooking equipment tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing, and other related components shall be installed as specified in the International Mechanical Code and the International Fuel Gas Code, and shall be approved by the fire code official.
2. **3104.15.3 Location.** Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible material.
3. **3104.15.5 Cooking Tents.** Tents with side walls or drops where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 feet.
4. **3104.15.6 Outdoor Cooking.** Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of a tent or membrane structure.
5. **3104.16.2 Location of containers.** LP-Gas containers shall be located outside. Safety release valve shall be pointed away from tents and membrane structures.
6. **3104.16.3 Protection and Security.** Portable LP-Gas containers, piping, valves and fittings that are located outside and are being used to fuel equipment inside a tent or membrane structure shall be adequately protected to prevent tampering, damage by vehicles or other hazards, and shall be located in an approved location. Portable LP-Gas containers shall be securely fastened in place to prevent unauthorized movement.

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

1. **906 Portable Fire Extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in all of the following locations:
 - a. Table 906.1 Tents and membrane structures.
 - b. In areas flammable or combustible liquids are stored, used or dispensed.
2. **906.2 General requirements.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be selected, installed and maintained in accordance NFPA 10. It must be serviced within the last year, with a service tag attached or bought new within the last year with proof of receipt.
3. **906.4 Cooking grease fires.** Fire extinguishers shall be provided for protection of cooking grease fire shall be of an approved type compatible with the automatic fire-extinguishing system agent and in accordance with section 904.12.5.

4. **904.12.5 Portable fire extinguishers for commercial cooking equipment.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided within a 30 foot distance. Cooking equipment involving solid fuels or vegetable or animal oils and fats shall be protected by a class K rated portable extinguishers.