



# Long Beach Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention

FIRE PREVENTION REQUIREMENT  
NO. 4.001 6/11

## TENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Required to erect, maintain, operate, or use any structure, enclosure, or shelter constructed of canvas or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents it protects, and covering an area in excess of 400 sq ft. for tents and in excess of 700 sq ft. for canopies. (canopy 75% open)
- B. Proof of Flame-Retardancy of tent and all decorations (including sawdust if applicable) shall be produced at time of permit approval and maintained on premises with the tent.
- C. Submit plot plan of tent location, indicating exits, property line distances, parking areas, nearby structures, seating arrangements, etc. showing compliance with following requirements:

### PARKING

Internal combustion engine vehicles necessary to operation of event - minimum 20 ft. clearance. Other internal combustion engines - minimum 100 ft. clearance except on public street, then minimum 20 ft. clearance. (Title 19, CAC Sec. 312)

### TENT LOCATION

Tents, canopies or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, other tents, canopies or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. For purposes of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy. A minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents shall be required, no exceptions.

### EXCEPTION:

1. Separation distance between membrane structures, tent and canopies not used for cooking, is not required when the aggregate floor area does not exceed 15,000 square feet.
2. Membrane structures, tents or canopies need not be separated from buildings when all of the following conditions are met:
3. The aggregate floor area of the membrane structure, tent or canopy shall not exceed 10,000 square feet.
4. The aggregate floor area of the building and membrane structure, tent or canopy shall not exceed the allowable floor area including increases as indicated in the California Building Code.
5. Required means of egress provisions are provided for both the building and the membrane structure, tent or canopy, including travel distances.
6. Fire apparatus access roads are provided in accordance with Section 503.

**FIRE BREAK:**

An unobstructed fire break passageway 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, canopies and membrane structures unless otherwise approved by the fire code official.

**ANCHORAGE REQUIRED:**

Tents, canopies 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 structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official on request.

**TENT AREA:**

1. Combustible weeds, trash, and vegetation shall be cleared 50 ft. min. from tents.
2. Tent stakes shall be railed off, capped or covered to prevent hazard.
3. No combustible or flammable liquid storage in or within 50 ft. of tent used for public assembly.

**EXITS & AISLES:**

1. Exits spaced at approximately equal intervals around tent perimeter with no point located more than 100 ft. travel distance from an exit.
2. Exits shall be provided in accordance with following:

<u>Persons</u>	<u>Minimum # of Exits</u>	<u>Min. Width Each Exit (FT.) Tent or Canopy</u>	<u>Min. for Membrane Structure</u>
1-199	2	6	36
200-499	3	6	72
500-999	4	8	96
1000-1999	5	10	96
2000 - 2999	6	10	96
Over 3000	7	10	96

*(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)*

3. Exit openings shall remain open or have canvas curtain meeting following criteria
  - a. free sliding on metal support,
  - b. minimum 8 feet in height above the floor level
  - c. definite color contrast with color of tent,
  - d. covered by a flame resistant curtain.
4. Exits shall be clearly marked. Exit signs shall be installed at required exit doorways and where otherwise necessary to indicate clearly the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more.

5. Exits and exitways shall be clearly marked with signs having minimum 6 inch high letters. Exit signs shall be of an approved self-luminous type or shall be internally or externally illuminated by luminaries supplied in the following manner: (1) Two separate circuits, one of which shall be separate from all other circuits, for occupant loads less than 300, (2) 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.
  6. 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. Fixtures required for means of egress illumination shall be supplied from a separate circuit or source of power.
  7. Seating in tents, canopies or membrane structures shall be in accordance with Chapter 10 in the California Fire Code.
    - a. Dual access. For rows of seating served by aisles or doorways at both ends, there shall be not more than 100 seats per row. The minimum clear width of 12 inches between rows shall be increased by 0.3 inch for every additional seat beyond 14 seats, but the minimum clear width is not required to exceed 22 inches.
    - b. Single access. For rows of seating served by an aisle or doorway at only one end of the row, the minimum clear width of 12 inches between rows shall be increased by 0.6 inch for every additional seat beyond seven seats, but the minimum clear width is not required to exceed 22 inches.
  8. 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 Long Beach Fire Department. This requirement may be waived, in the AHJ's opinion, public safety will not be jeopardized. (T-19, 320)
- D. **SMOKING** - There will be no smoking in tents. Each tent must have "No Smoking" signs conspicuously posted. Permittee has responsibility to enforce smoking ban.
- E. **PROHIBITIONS** - No fireworks, open flames, or spark producing devices shall be allowed in tents open to the public.
- F. **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 of the tent, canopy or membrane structure while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official. In tents not open to the public the following conditions apply:

1. Gas, liquid, and solid fuel burning equipment shall be installed as specified in the Mechanical Code.
2. If using liquid petroleum gas, portable container must be at least 5 ft. from tent. All connecting hoses & fittings must be approved and valves and connections must be protected with guard shields or recessing. LPG tank must be in location protected from vehicle and human traffic.
3. L.P. gas containers to be secured when in operation.

**G. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - Minimum requirements (Title 19)**

1. Up to 500 sq.ft., One - 2A 10BC extinguisher, 500 sq.ft. to 1000 sq.ft., Two - 2A 10BC extinguishers, 1 additional 2A type extinguisher for each additional 2000 sq.ft. or fraction thereof.
2. For each kitchen, mess hall, power generator, and where flammable or combustible liquids are used, stored, or dispensed, at least 1 - 10 BC type fire extinguisher. (Note: For tents with occupant load over 1000 persons, see Title 19 CAC Sec. 319 for on site fire hose requirements)

**H. ELECTRICAL**

1. Tent electrical system and equipment shall be isolated from the public by elevation or guarding, and all fuses and switches shall be in approved enclosures.
2. Electrical cables and cords on ground in public areas shall be in trenches or protected by approved covers.
3. Electrical system in tent must be inspected daily by qualified person before opening to public.
4. In tents with more than 300 persons, emergency lighting must be provided if natural light is not available.
5. Two separate circuits, one of which shall be separate from all other circuits, for occupant loads of 300 or less.