



Madison Township Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau

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FIRE SAFETY DURING FAIRS, FESTIVALS, and SPECIAL EVENTS

1. Tents and Temporary Structures

- A. All Tents and Temporary Structures shall meet the following conditions listed under the 2007 Ohio Building Code, 2007 Ohio Fire Code, and NFPA 102 (Grandstands, Folding and Telescopic Seating, Tents and Membrane Structures), NFPA 701 (Standard Method of Fire Tests for Flame-propagation of Textiles and Films), (OBC 3102.1 Membrane Structures), (OFC FM 2403.1 Temporary Tents, Canopies and Membrane Structures);
- B. Permanent tents, canopies and membrane structures shall also comply with the **building code** as listed in *rule 1301:7-7-45 of the Administrative Code*. **(OFC 2404.1 General Requirements)**
- a. Tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 200 square feet and canopies in excess of 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the fire code official and plan approval from the building code official. **(OFC 2403.2 Approval Required), (OBC 3102.1.1 Approval Required)**
- b. All tents and temporary structures shall be constructed of flame-resistant materials or materials treated to render the material flame resistant in a manner approved by the Fire Official and Building Official meeting the performance requirements of **NFPA 701**. The owner or agent shall file with the fire code official a certificate executed by an approved testing laboratory, certifying that the tents, canopies and membrane structures and their appurtenances, sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins, floor coverings, bunting, combustible decorative materials and effects, including sawdust when used on floors or passageways, shall be composed of material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of **NFPA 701**. **(OBC 3102.3 thru OBC 3102.6.1 Type of Construction), (OFC 2404.2) Flame Propagation Performance**
- c. Membrane structures, tents or canopies shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the identification of size and fabric or material type. **(OFC 2404.3 Label)**
- d. A detailed site and floor plan for tents, canopies or membrane structures with an occupant load of 50 or more shall be provided with each application for approval. The tent, canopy or membrane structure floor plan shall indicate details of the means of egress facilities, seating capacity, arrangement of seating and location and type of heating and electrical equipment. **(OFC 2403.6 Construction Documents)**
- e. Hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials shall not be located within any tent, canopy or membrane structure containing an assembly occupancy, except the materials necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for public performance or exhibit shall not be prohibited provided the sawdust and shavings are kept damp. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under stands or seats at any time. The areas within and adjacent to the tent or air-supported structure shall be maintained clear of all combustible materials or vegetation that could create a fire hazard within 20 feet from the structure. Combustible trash shall be removed at least once a day from the structure during the period the structure is occupied by the public. **(OFC 2404.5 Combustible Materials)**
- f. 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 the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy. **(OFC 2403.8.2 Location)**
- Exceptions:
- (1) Separation distance between membrane structures, tents 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:
- (2.1) The aggregate floor area of the membrane structure, tent or canopy shall not exceed 10,000 square feet.
- (2.2) 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 building code as listed in *rule 1301:7-7-45 of the Administrative Code*.
- (2.3) Required means of egress provisions are provided for both the building and the membrane structure, tent or canopy, including travel distances.
- (2.4) Fire apparatus access roads are provided in accordance with *paragraph (C)(503) of rule 1301:7-7-05 of the Administrative Code*.
- g. Membrane structures having an area of 15,000 square feet or more shall be located not less than 50 feet from any other tent or structure as measured from the sidewall of the tent or membrane structure unless jointed together by a corridor. **(OFC 2403.8.3 Location of Structures in Excess of 15,000 square feet in Area)**
- h. There shall be a minimum clearance of at least 3 feet between the fabric envelope and all contents located inside the tent or membrane structure. **(OFC 2404.11 Clearance)**

2. Smoking

- A. Smoking shall not be permitted in tents, canopies or membrane structures. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted in accordance with *paragraph (J)(310) of rule 1301:7-7-03 of the Administrative Code*. **(OFC 2404.6 Smoking)**

3. Fireworks

- A. Fireworks shall not be used within 100 feet of tents, canopies or membrane structures. **(OFC 2404.8 Fireworks)**

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FIRE SAFETY DURING FAIRS, FESTIVALS, and SPECIAL EVENTS

Pg. 2

4. Open or Exposed Flame

- A. 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 within 20 feet of the tent, canopy or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official. **(OFC 2404.7 Open or Exposed Flame)**

5. Cooking

- A. Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet. **(OFC 2404.15.5 Cooking Tents)**
- B. Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials. **(OFC 2404.15.3 Location)**
- C. 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. **(OFC 2404.15.4 Operations)**
- D. Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet from a tent, canopy or membrane structure. **(OFC 2404.15.6 Outdoor Cooking)**
- E. Heating or Cooking Equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be installed as specified in the *mechanical code* and the "*International Fuel Gas Code*" as listed in rule 1301:7-7-45 of the Administrative Code, and shall be approved by the fire code official. **(OFC 2404.15.1)(a) Installation)**
- F. Gas, liquid and solid fuel-burning equipment designed to be vented shall be vented to the outside air as specified in the *mechanical code* and the "*International Fuel Gas Code*" as listed in rule 1301:7-7-45 of the Administrative Code. Such vents shall be equipped with approved spark arresters when required. When vents or flues are used, all portions of the tent, canopy or membrane structure shall be not less than 12 inches from the flue or vent. **(OFC 2404.15.2 Venting)**
- G. Electrical cooking and heating equipment shall comply with the building code and NFPA 70 as listed in rule 1301:7-7-45 of the Administrative Code. **(OFC 2404.15.7 Electrical Heating and Cooking Equipment)**

6. L-P Gas

- A. Portable LP-gas containers shall be located outside. Safety release valves shall be pointed away from the tent, canopy or membrane structure. **(OFC 2404.16.2 Location of Containers)**
- (i) Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of 500 gallons or less shall have a minimum separation between the container and structure not less than 10 feet. **(OFC 2404.16.2.1 Containers 500 gallons or less)**
- (ii) 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 feet. **(OFC 2404.16.2.2 Containers more than 500 gallons)**
- (iii) 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. Portable LP-gas containers shall be securely fastened in place to prevent unauthorized movement. **(OFC 2404.16.2.3 Protection and Security)**

7. Flammable Liquids

- A. Flammable-liquid fueled equipment shall not be used in tents, canopies or membrane structures. **(OFC 2404.17.1 Use)**
- B. Flammable and combustible liquids shall be stored outside in an approved manner not less than 50 feet from tents, canopies or membrane structures. Storage shall be in accordance with rule 1301:7-7-34 of the Administrative Code. **(OFC 2404.17.2 Flammable and Combustible Liquid Storage)**
- C. Refueling shall be performed in an approved location not less than 20 feet from tents, canopies or membrane structures. **(OFC 2404.17.3 Refueling)**

8. Portable Fire Extinguishers

- A. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as required by paragraph (F)(906) of rule 1301:7-7-09 of the Administrative Code. **(OFC 2404.12 Portable Fire Extinguishers)**

9. Fire Protection Equipment

- A. Fire hose lines, water supplies and other auxiliary fire equipment shall be maintained at the site in such numbers and sizes as may be required by the fire code official. **(OFC 2404.13 Fire Protection Equipment)**

10. Anchorage Requirements / Inspections

- A. 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 structure stability shall be furnished to the fire code official on request. **(OFC 2403.9 Anchorage Required)**
- B. The entire tent, air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structure system shall be inspected at regular intervals, but not less than two times per permit use period, by the permittee, owner or agent to determine that the installation is maintained in accordance with this rule. **(OFC 2403.7 Inspections)**

11. Fire Department Access

- A. Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided in accordance with paragraph (C)(503) of rule 1301:7-7-05 of the Administrative Code. **(OFC 2403.8.1 Access)**
- B. The fire code official shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations. **(OFC 503.2.2 Authority)**

12. Place of Assembly

- A. A place of assembly shall include a circus, carnival, tent show, theater, skating rink, dance hall or other place of assembly in or under which persons gather for any purpose. **(OFC 2403.3 Place of Assembly)**