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**Policy Directive: Temporary revision of codes to allow for outdoor food service**

**This applies to the following:**

- **Tent and membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet**
- **Individual tents open on all sides that exceed 700 square feet in area**
- **Multiple tents open on all sides with an aggregate area in excess of 700 square feet if not separated by at least 12'**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the San Diego County Fire Authority is establishing a Temporary Policy Directive for outdoor occupancies serving food. This policy will provide for temporary revisions to the 2019 California Fire Code and the California Code of Regulations requirements as they are applied to Temporary Tents and Membrane Structures. This Policy Directive is to address outdoor dining operations as allowed by the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health. The Policy Directive shall be in effect for the duration of the San Diego County Public Health order restricting indoor dining. Once the restrictions have been lifted, the following Policy Directives shall no longer grant any modifications to the Codes.

This Policy Directive shall only refer to structures that meet the following definition of a tent as found in the 2019 California Fire Code: A structure, enclosure, umbrella structure or shelter, with or without sidewalls or drops, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported in any manner except by air or the contents it protects.

1. An operational permit is required to operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure, a temporary special event structure or a tent having an area in excess of 400 square feet, individual tents open on all sides that exceed 700 square feet, or multiple tents open on all sides with an aggregate area in excess of 700 square feet if not separated by at least 12'. Provide a plan showing the configuration of the tent, tables, chairs, exit path and exits.
2. A permit shall be required (no cost) and an inspection shall be done to ensure requirements have been met.
3. The temporary tent structures shall be treated as part of the main structure that it is serving.
4. The means of egress shall be equivalent to means of egress of the primary building and shall be no less than 36" in full-width opening. Aisles shall be a minimum of 44" in width leading to the exit.
5. Exit signs (illuminated) shall be required if the occupancy load is greater than 49 persons, as determined by using Chapter 10 of the 2019 California Fire Code.
6. Minimum of 1 fire extinguisher (2A:10 BC) shall be installed but more may be needed due to size of the tent area and egress path length.
7. All outdoor lighting and electrical shall be in good working order and free of damage and splices. Light strands used on the exterior shall be rated for exterior use.
8. Tents shall be allowed to connect to structures under the parcel/business owner's control but must be at least 10' from any structures outside the control of the parcel/ business owners control (includes structures on adjacent parcels).

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9. Structural stability and anchorage (documentation waived) shall be installed, and when wind speeds exceed 25 mph, the fabric material shall be removed for safety.
10. All tent structures shall be labeled as fire resistive or provide proof from the manufacturer of meeting California fire resistive requirements. Tents not meeting this requirement shall be treated to be fire resistive by an approved company and have paperwork affixed to the tent.
11. "NO SMOKING & NO VAPING" signs shall be installed as to be visible from all seated areas.
12. Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat shall not be permitted inside or located within 20' of the tent structures.