



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE IN COOPERATION WITH CAL FIRE

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Temporary tents – Operational requirements

TENT – 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. 2022 California Fire Code (CFC) 2.202.

- Approval Required 2022CFC 3103.2.
 - o Tents and membrane structures having an area more than 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.
 - o Exceptions:
 - Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
 - Tents open on all sides that comply with all the following:
 - 2.1. Individual tents having a maximum size of 700 square feet.
 - 2.2. The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet, not exceeding 700 square feet total.
 - 2.3. A minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents.

Operational permit # [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) From Enter start date to Enter end date

An operational permit is required to operate:

- An air-supported temporary membrane structure.
- A temporary special event structure.
- A tent having an area more than 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 more than 700 square feet if not separated by at least 12'.

An inspection shall be conducted by SDCFPD personnel to ensure requirements have been met.

Location – Tents or Membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, or other tents or membrane structures, parked vehicles, or internal combustion engines. For determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure or tent. 2022CFC 3103.8.2

- The temporary tent structure shall be treated as part of the main structure that it is serving.

OSFM Labeling – Membrane structures or tents shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the following information:

- The identification of size and fabric or material.
- The names and addresses of the manufacturers of the tent or air-supported structure.
- A statement that the fabric or material meets the requirements of section 3104.2.

- If treated, the date the fabric or material was last treated with flame-retardant solution, the trade name or kind of chemical used.
- If untreated, a statement that no treatment was applied when the fabric or material met the requirements of section 2022CFC 3104.3.

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.

Combustible material (Hay, straw, wood shavings) shall not be permitted within any tent or membrane structure containing an assembly occupancy, except the materials necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for a public performance or exhibit shall not be prohibited provided that the sawdust and shavings are kept damp. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under the stands or seats at any time. 2022CFC 3107.2

The means of egress shall be equivalent to means of egress of the primary building and shall be no less than 72" in full width opening. Aisles shall be a minimum of 44" in width leading to the exit.

Exit signs (illuminated) shall be required if the occupancy load is greater than 49 persons, as determined by using Chapter 10 of the 2022 CFC.

Exit, aisles, passageways shall not be blocked or have their minimum clear width obstructed in any manner by ticket offices, turnstiles, concessions, chairs, equipment, animal chutes, poles, guy ropes, or anything whatsoever, nor shall they be blocked by persons for whom no seats are available. 2022CFC 3107.20.

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. 2022CFC 3105.9.

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.

Structural stability and anchorage (documentation waived) shall be installed, and when wind speeds exceed 25 mph, the fabric material shall be removed for safety.

"NO SMOKING & NO VAPING" signs shall be installed as to be visible from all seated areas. 2022CFC 3107.3.

Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat shall not be permitted inside or located within 20' of the tent structures. 2022CFC 3107.4.

Clearance - There shall be a clearance of not less than 3 feet between the fabric envelope and all contents located inside the membrane structure. 2022CFC 3107.8.

Cooking and Heating Equipment - Cooking and Heating equipment shall not be located within 10' of exits or combustible material. 2022CFC 3107.12.3.

LPG tanks to be secured for tip over.

Operations such as warming foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations that use solid flammables, butane or other similar devices that do not pose an ignition hazard, shall be approved. 2022CFC 3107.12.4.

Tents with sidewalls or drops where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 feet. 2022CFC 3107.12.5.

Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of a tent or membrane structure. 2022CFC 3107.12.6.

Electrical cooking and heating equipment shall comply with the California Electrical Code. 2022CFC 3107.12.7.

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, enclosure, or other approved means. 2022CFC 3107.16.

3103.12.2 Number.

Tents or membrane structures or a usable portion thereof shall have not less than one exit and not less than the number of exits required by Table 3103.12.2. The total width of means of egress in inches (mm) shall be not less than the total occupant load served by a means of egress multiplied by 0.2 inches (5 mm) per person.

TABLE 3103.12.2 MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS AND MEANS OF EGRESS WIDTHS FROM TEMPORARY MEMBRANE STRUCTURES AND TENTS

OCCUPANT LOAD	MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS	MINIMUM WIDTH OF EACH MEANS OF EGRESS (inches)	
		Tent	Membrane Structure
10 to 199	2	72	36
200 to 499	3	72	72
500 to 999	4	96	72
1,000 to 1,999	5	120	96
2,000 to 2,999	6	120	96
Over 3,000 ^a	7	120	96

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. When the occupant load exceeds 3,000, the total width of means of egress (in inches) shall be not less than the total occupant load multiplied by 0.2 inch per person.

Tent Submittal requirements:

- Refer to checklist above when planning site layout and tent(s).

Construction Documents 2022CFC 3103.6:

- A detailed site and floor plan for tents or membrane structures with an occupant load of 50 or more shall be provided with each application for approval.
- Include detailed sketch of site layout:
 - Tents and other components of site
 - Cooking areas
 - Generators
 - Fire Department Access
 - Include distances
- Include detailed sketch of tent layout/ floor plan:
 - Size of tent
 - Show location of fire extinguishers, exits, exit signs, no smoking signs
 - Seating layout/ egress plan
 - Tent sidewall location(s)
 - Location and type of heating and electrical equipment
- Contact information of responsible party
- Dates of function
- Setup/ take down dates
- Number of people attending
 - Crowd managers may be required for large gatherings.
- Submit to - Fire@sdcounty.ca.gov