

PERMITS & ENTERTAINMENT TENT & CANOPY PERMITS



BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT
Prevention Services
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PROCEDURES & INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FORM

Page 1 of 3

Application for a tent permit must be made at least 24 hours prior to the Fire Safety Inspection and the fire safety inspection must be completed and approved prior to operation.

NOTE: If tent is not ready for inspection at the time stated, there may be a re-inspection fee charged or an after-hours inspection fee charged.

TENT: A temporary structure, the covering of which is made of pliable material that achieves its support by mechanical means such as beams, columns, poles or arches, or by rope or cables, or both. (NFPA 102:2.2)

CANOPY: A temporary structure, enclosure, or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable materials supported by any manner, except by air or the contents it protects, and is open without sidewalls or drops on 75 percent or more of the perimeter. (CFC 3202.2)

TEMPORARY MEMBRANE STRUCTURE: A building or portion of a building incorporating an air-inflated, air-supported, tensioned-membrane structure; a membrane roof; or a membrane-covered ridge frame to protect habitable or usable space that is in place for a period of 180 consecutive calendar days or less. (NFPA 102:2.2)

PERMIT:

- A permit shall be obtained from the Bakersfield Fire Department Fire Prevention Services to erect or operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure or tent having an area in excess of 200 square feet or canopy in excess of 400 square feet. (CFC 105.7-t.1)
- Tents, canopies, or membranes shall be permitted only on a temporary basis, not to exceed 180 days in a 12-month period. (NFPA 102: 8-1; CFC 3204)

LOCATION OF TENTS, CANOPIES, OR TEMPORARY MEMBRANES:

- Tents, canopies, or membranes shall not be located within 20 feet of property lines, buildings, other tents, canopies, or membranes, parked vehicles, or internal combustion engines. (NFPA 102: 8-5.3; CFC 3205.2)
- Tents, canopies, or membranes shall not be located within 50 feet of flammable and combustible liquids storage or vegetation. (CFC 3217.2)
- Flammable vegetation may be present if treated with approved fire-resistive treatments.



FLAME RESISTANCE:

- Sidewalls, drops, and tops of temporary membrane structures, tents, and canopies shall be composed of flame-resistant material. (CFC 3207)
- The Bakersfield Fire Department *requires a certificate* or other evidence of approved by a laboratory of recognized standing *that the tent fabric materials has the required flame resistance (State of California Fire Marshal's Seal)*. (NFPA 102: 8-4; CFC 3207)
- Tents, canopies, or membranes shall have a permanently affixed label with the following information: (CFC 3207)
 - Identification of size and fabric or material type.
 - The date they were last treated with an approved flame retardant.
 - The trade name and type of flame retardant utilized in the treatment.
 - The name of the person and firm that applied the flame retardant.
- No hay, straw, shavings, or other combustible material shall be permitted within any structure used as an assembly unless it has been treated with an approved fire retardant. (NFPA 102: 9-2.3)

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

- Fire extinguishers shall be provided in every tent, canopy, or membrane structure at: (NFPA 102:9-3.3)
 - Under 500 sq. ft. of floor area One (1) 2-A; 10-BC
 - 500 – 1,000 sq. ft. of floor area Two (2) 2-A; 10-BC
 - Each additional 1,000 sq. ft. of floor area One (1) additional 2-A; 10-BC

NO SMOKING SIGNS:

- Smoking shall not be permitted in tents, canopies, or membrane structures or in adjacent areas where hay, straw, sawdust or other combustible materials are used or stored. (NFPA 102: 9-2.4; CFC 3215.1)



SEATING ARRANGEMENTS:

- Spacing:
 - When seating in rows that have 14 or less seats, the minimum clear width between rows shall not be less than 12 inches.
 - If the seating exceeds 100 total seats, width between will increase by 0.3 inches for every seat beyond 14, not to exceed 22 inches. (CFC 2501.10.1)
- Bonding:
 - Loose seats, folding chairs in excess of 300 and not fixed to the floor, shall be bonded together in groups of three or more. (2501.10.2)
- Exit Signs:
 - Exit signs shall be required when necessary to clearly indicate the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more. (CFC 3214.1)

COOKING AND HEATING:

- Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents, canopies, or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet. (CFC 3216.3.2)
- Electrical heating equipment shall not be located within 20 feet of an exit. (CFC 3216.3.1)
- Electrical systems and equipment shall be isolated from public by proper elevation or guarding, and all electrical fuses and switches shall be enclosed in approved enclosures. Cables on the ground in areas traversed by the public shall be placed in trenches or protected by approved covers. (NFPA 102: 10-1.3)
- No fuel fired heaters shall be permitted within any tent, canopy, or membrane structure. (NFPA 102: 10-2.1.2)

FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS:

- Flammable and combustible liquids shall be stored outside in an approved manner not less than 50 square feet from any tent, canopy, or membrane structure. (CFC 3217.2)
- Refueling shall be performed in an approved location not less than 20 feet from any tent, canopy, or membrane structure. (CFC 3217.3)
- Generators and other combustible power sources shall be separated from tent, canopy or membrane structure by a minimum of 20 feet and isolated from contact with the public. (CFC 3219)