



Fire Department

HEADQUARTERS

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CODE SUMMARY

PERMITS – SPECIAL EVENTS (Carnivals, Fairs & Festivals)

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific occupancy or permit. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to occupancies and operations as defined by the **California Fire Code**. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. These requirements pertain to existing buildings. New construction may be subject to additional requirements. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (805) 681-5500.

SCOPE:

Fire and life safety regulations relating to temporary carnival and fairs. For additional requirements for Tents and Membrane Structures see Fire Prevention Code Summary: Permits - Tents and Membrane Structures.

A special event is defined as a temporary gathering of 50 or more participants involving one or more of the following activities:

- a) Exclusive use of public facilities such as buildings, parks, streets, parking lots, athletic fields, etc..
- b) Use of private property where temporary structures (stages, tents, canopies), and/or demonstration areas, activity participation areas are utilized by the public.
- c) Closing of a public street or private right-of-way.
- d) Requires temporary installation of equipment and/or buildings.
- e) Requires public safety support based upon Fire Department assessment.

GENERAL:

1. **A Fire Department permit is required for all carnivals, street fairs and festivals whether on public or private property. Safety inspections will be conducted by the Fire Department prior to the commencement of operations.** (CFC 105.6.4)
2. **Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided.**
Access roads shall be a minimum of 20-feet wide. Utility services to booths and stands shall be so located that they do not create a hazard. It is preferred that access roads be run to the rear of booths and stands when practical. Site plans shall be submitted to the Fire Prevention Bureau for review prior to the event. (CFC 503.2)

Concession Stands, Booths and Spaces:

3. **Spacing requirements are based upon the activity of each concession stand, booth or space. The following guidelines shall be followed:**
 - A. Concession stands, booths, and spaces with no open flame and/or heat producing devices may be placed side by side providing that the aggregate square footage does not exceed 15,000 sq. ft. Each grouping shall be separated by a minimum of 20 feet. (CFC 3103.8.2)
 - B. Concession stands, booths, and spaces associated with cooking may be placed side by side providing the aggregate square footage does not exceed 400 sq. ft. Each grouping shall be separated by a minimum of 20 feet. (CFC 3108)

- C. Tents and membrane structures where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet. (CFC 3104.15.5)
- D. All fabric or membrane covered booths must be certified flame retardant and have a State Fire Marshal seal attached. (CFC 3104.2)
- E. All decorative material shall be treated "fire resistive" or inherently fire resistive. Certification documentation is required. (CFC 3104.2)

Fire Extinguishers:

- 4. Fire Extinguisher layout of non-food booths shall be determined upon submittal of site layout plan.**
- 5. Booths with cooking shall provide a minimum 20-BC rated fire extinguisher. (CFC 906.3.2)**
- 6. All extinguishers shall be certified for year of use and have a current State Fire Marshal certification tag attached. (CFC 906.2)**
- 7. All extinguishers shall be visible and accessible at all times, preferably mounted near a point of egress. (CFC 906.5)**
- 8. When a generator is used, one 10BC fire extinguisher must be located within 30 feet of the generator's location and it must be readily accessible. (CFC 3104.12)**
- 9. Fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 2A-10BC shall be provided as follows:**
One extinguisher for tents and canopies from 501 to 1,000 square feet and one extinguisher for each additional 2,000 square feet of floor area or fraction thereof. (2010 CFC 3104.12)

Cooking Equipment:

- 10. All flammable liquid/gas fueled appliances shall be equipped with an accessible on/off valve. (CFC 5003.2.2.1) (CFC 5803.1.3)**
- 11. Spare compressed gas cylinders shall be limited to one 20lb cylinder for each cooking appliance. Spare tanks shall not be stored in the tent or booth. (CFC 3104.17.3)**
- 12. All compressed cylinders shall be secured in an upright position. Turn off cylinders when not in use. (CFC 5305.6)**
- 13. Fuel supply lines shall be in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. All fuel lines shall be approved for the intended use and pressure regulator shall be attached to pressurized lines. The testing of all connections of pressurized supply lines must be conducted using a soapy water solution. (CFC 3509.7)**
- 14. Flammable and combustible liquids and LP-gas shall not be stored in or within 50 feet of tents and canopies. (2010 CFC 3104.17.2)**

Electrical Equipment:

- 15. Electrical equipment and installations shall comply with the *California Electrical Code*. (CFC 605.4 through 605.9 & 3104.15.7)**

16. Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Temporary wiring methods shall meet the applicable provisions of the *California Electrical Code*. (CFC 605.9)

17. Cords must be plugged directly into an approved receptacle and shall serve only one appliance. (605.5.1)

18. Extension and appliance cords shall be in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. (CFC 605.5.3)

19. Extension cords may not be run in series. (CFC 605.5.1)

Generator use:

20. Generators shall be outside and isolated from contact with the public by physical barrier. (CFC 3104.19)

21. If refueling is required, refueling must be conducted outside a minimum of 20 from a membrane structure and the generator must shut down and cooled. (CFC 3104.17.3)

House Keeping and General Fire Safety Requirements:

22. All weeds, combustible vegetation, trash and combustible storage shall be removed from areas adjacent to and within 30 feet of tents and canopies. (CFC 304.1.1) (CFC 304.1.2)

23. Gas, solid or liquid-fuel - burning equipment shall be vented to the exterior by means of an approved flue or vent. A 12-inch clearance shall be maintained between the flue or vent and all tent material. (CFC 3104.15.2)

24. Solid-fuel - burning equipment shall be provided with an approved spark arrestor having openings not exceeding ¼ inch wire mesh. (CFC 3104.15.2)

25. Smoking is prohibited in tents and canopies. Approved “NO SMOKING” signs shall be posted.
(CFC 3104.6)

26. The use of open flame devices such as candles is prohibited in tents and canopies. (CFC 3104.7)

27. Rubbish containers shall not exceed 40 gallons unless they are constructed of noncombustible materials and shall be provided with noncombustible lids. (CFC 304.3.2)

28. Dumpsters in excess of 1.5 cubic yards with tight fitting noncombustible lids shall be kept a minimum of five feet from booths or stands. All other dumpsters shall be kept a minimum of 30 feet from tents or membrane structures. (CFC 304.3.4) & (CFC 3104.5)