

Tents, Canopies and Temporary Membrane Structures

Tents:

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.

Canopy:

Area that is either outside the confines of a building, or an area sheltered from the elements by overhead cover that is protected from weather exposure by an exterior wall that obstructs not more than 25 percent of the building boundary.

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 rigid frame to protect habitable or useable space that is in place for a period of 180 consecutive calendar days or less.

Tents, Canopies and Temporary Membrane Structures

- A permit shall be obtained from the Fire Marshal to erect or operate an air-supported temporary structure or tent having an area in excess of 200 square feet or a canopy in excess of 400 square feet.
- Before a permit is issued to erect a temporary membrane structures, tents, and canopies, the applicant shall file with the Copper Mountain Fire Department a certificate of insurance. Also, the applicant must submit a neatly drawn site plan of the tent/canopy.
- The placement of tents relative to other structures shall be at the discretion of the Fire Marshal.
- Poles and their supporting guys, stays and fastenings shall be of sufficient strength and attachment to resist a minimum wind pressure of 20 lbf./sq. ft. of projected area of the tent.
- Tents shall be adequately guyed, supported and braced to withstand a minimum pressure or suction of 10 lbf./Sq Ft.
- All tent fabric shall be flame resistant as demonstrated by testing in accordance with NFPA 701, Standards of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films. Applicant must submit Certificate of Flame Retardant characteristics on the fabric, from the manufacturer.
- No hay, straw, shavings or other similar combustible materials that have not been treated to make them flame retardant to a degree acceptable to the Fire Marshal shall be permitted within any structure used as assembly occupancy.
- Smoking shall not be permitted in tents, canopies and temporary membrane structures or in adjacent areas where hay, straw, sawdust or other combustible materials are stored or used. "NO SMOKING" signs shall be conspicuously posted.
- Fire extinguishers shall be provided in every tent, canopy and temporary membrane structure as follows:

200 to 500 square feet of floor area: One (1) 2-A:10-B:C

500 to 1000 square feet of floor area: Two (2) 2-A:10-B:C

Each additional 2000 square feet of floor area or fraction thereof: One (1)
2-A:10-B:C

- Cooking equipment used in fixed, mobile or temporary concessions, such as trucks, buses, trailers, pavilions, tents or any form of roofed enclosure shall comply with NFPA 1: Chapter 50 Commercial Cooking Equipment, unless all or part of the installation is exempted by the Fire Marshal.
- Concession stands used for cooking shall have a minimum clearance of 10 feet on two sides and shall not be located within 10 feet of amusement rides or devices.
- At least one (1) Class K Fire Extinguisher shall be provided for each kitchen that uses appliances with combustible cooking media.
- Where two exits or exit access doors are required, they shall be placed at a distance from one another not less than one-half the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the building or area to be served, measured in a straight line between the nearest edge of the exit doors or exit access doors.
- The number of means of egress from any tent shall not be less than two and shall increase as follows:
 - Occupant load more than 500 but not more than 1000 – not less than 3.
 - Occupant load more than 1000 – not less than 4.
- Aisles shall not be less than 36 inches wide.
- Emergency lighting shall be provided. Emergency lighting is not required for tents when equipped with clear vision panels that allow outside ambient lighting.
- Illuminated exit signs shall be installed.
- No storage or handling of flammable liquids or gases shall be permitted at any location where it would jeopardize egress from the structure.
- Containers for LP-gas shall be installed not less than 60 inches (5 feet) from any tent and shall be in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from temporary membrane structures and tents by a minimum of 5 feet and shall be protected from contact by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.
- Refueling of equipment with liquids having flash points below 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) shall not be permitted within the structure.
- Compressed gas containers, cylinders and tanks in use or in storage shall be secured to prevent them from falling or being knocked over.

The items listed are basic information only. Codes are subject to change. Additional requirements may apply. These requirements are in addition to any other requirements that may be required by other agencies or departments.

Copper Mountain Fire Department

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