



Office of the Fire Marshal

Frederick County Fire & Rescue Department

Tent Guide

Information referenced from the 2015 Frederick County Fire Prevention Code

A **Tent** is defined as a structure, enclosure or shelter, with or without sidewalls or drops, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects.

All Tents:

- A permit issued by the Frederick County Fire Marshal's office shall be required for tents over 900 square feet not being used for recreational camping purposes.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 107.2 Permit Required.)
- A detailed site and floor plan for tents with occupant load of 50 or more shall be required with each application for approval. The tent floor plan shall indicate details of means of egress, seating capacity, arrangement of seating and location and types of heating and electrical equipment.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3103.6 Construction documents.)
- An unobstructed fire break passageway or fire road not less than 12 feet wide and free from guy ropes or other obstructions shall be maintained on all sides of all tents unless otherwise approved by the fire code official.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3103.8.6 Fire break.)
- A certificate from an approved laboratory stating that the materials used in tent meet the flame-retardant criteria needed to pass NFPA Test Method 1 or Test Method 2.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.2 Flame propagation performance treatment.)
- Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.6 Smoking.)
- At least one 5lb. multipurpose 2A 10BC portable fire extinguisher shall be hung and tagged within 75 ft of travel distance.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.12 Portable fire extinguishers.)
- Generators shall be separated from tent by not less than 20 feet.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.19 Separation of generators.)

Tents with walls or sides:

- Exit signs are required anytime the occupant load exceeds 50 people. Exit signs shall be easily seen via natural lighting or artificial lighting. If artificial lighting is used to illuminate the sign, then the lighting shall be split between two separate electrical circuits or an internally illuminated electrical sign with battery backup can be used.
(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3103.12.6.1 Exit sign illumination)

- Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame-resistant curtain. The curtain shall comply with the following requirements:
 - * Curtains shall be free sliding on a metal support. The support shall be not less than 80 inches above the floor level at exit. The curtain shall be so arranged that, when open, no part of the curtain obstructs the exit.
 - * Curtains shall be of a color, or colors, that contrasts with the colors of the tent.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3103.12.3 Exit openings from tents.)

- Minimum Number of Means of exits and minimum widths of exit.

| Occupant Load | Minimum Number of Exits | Minimum Width of Each Exit (inches) |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10 to 199 | 2 | 72 |
| 200 to 499 | 3 | 72 |
| 500 to 999 | 4 | 96 |

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3103.12.2 Number.)

- Exit pathway shall be illuminated. If artificial lighting is being used to illuminate the exit pathway then the lighting shall be split between two separate electrical circuits or emergency lighting with battery backup can be used.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3103.12.7 Means of egress illumination)
- The required width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times to a public way. Guy wires, guy ropes and other support members shall not cross a means of egress at a height of less than 8 feet. The surface of means of egress shall be maintained in an approved manner.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3103.12.8 Maintenance of means of egress.)

Cooking and heating:

- Heating and cooking equipment tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing, and other related components shall be installed as specified by the applicable building code and shall be approved.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.15.1 Installation)
- Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.15.3 Location.)
- Cooking tents with sidewalls or drops where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents or members structures by not less than 20 feet.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.15.5 Cooking tents.)
- Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of a tent.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.15.6 Outdoor cooking.)
- Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of 500 gallons or less shall have a minimum separation between the container and structure not less than 10 feet.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.16.2 Location of containers.)
- Portable LP-gas containers shall be located outside and securely fastened in place to prevent movement.

(Frederick County fire Prevention Code section 3104.16.3 Protection and security.)