



REQUIREMENTS FOR TENTS AND
MEMBRANE STRUCTURES
CITY OF MODESTO
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

1. The permit application shall be received by the Fire Prevention Bureau at least fourteen calendar days prior to the expected erection of the structure including a site diagram, to scale or fully dimensioned, and the application fee.
2. The tent **shall not** be erected until the application has been approved.
3. A twenty (20) foot fire access roadway must be maintained around all tents. This roadway must be outside of the support wires (ropes) and guy wires to the tent.
4. All vehicle parking and other internal combustion engines must be at least twenty (20) feet from the tent.
5. Separation distance between tents and membrane structures not used for cooking is not required when the aggregate floor area does not exceed 15,000 square feet.
6. Membrane structures and tents need not be separated from buildings when all of the following conditions are met:
 - a) The aggregate floor area of the membrane structure or tent shall not exceed 10,000 square feet.
 - b) The aggregate floor area of the building and membrane structures or tent shall not exceed the allowable floor area including increases, as indicated in the California Building Code.
 - c) Required means of egress provisions are provided for both the building and the membrane structure or tent, including travel distances.
 - d) Fire apparatus access roads are provided in accordance with Section 503.
7. Tents and membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines.
8. Exit curtains/covers shall be free sliding on a metal support. The support shall be a minimum of 80 inches above the floor level at the exit. The curtains shall be so arranged that, when open, no part of the curtain obstructs the exit. Exit curtains/covers shall be of a color, or colors that contrasts with the color of the tent.
9. Illuminated exit signs are required at each exit while the tent is occupied. These exit signs shall be supplied from a separate circuit or source of power.
10. Provide a diagram indicating the proposed occupant load for each seating section in the tent. Identify those areas with fixed seating (i.e. benches) and those areas with portable seating (i.e. chairs).
11. Fire extinguishers of a 2A10BC rating shall be provided every seventy-five (75) feet of travel distance.
12. Heating and cooking equipment shall not be located within ten (10) feet of exits, aisles, passageways, or combustible materials.

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13. All weeds and vegetation shall be removed from under the tent and within thirty (30) feet from the outside of the tent.
14. Hay, straw, trash, and other flammable material cannot be stored closer than thirty (20) feet from the outside of the tent.
15. All other provisions of the 2010 California Fire Code will apply to the project.
16. A representative from the company or person erecting the tent must be present at time of inspection.
17. Certification. An affidavit or affirmation shall be submitted to the fire code official and a copy retained on the premises on which the tent or air-supported structure is located. The affidavit shall attest to the following information relative to the flame propagation performance criteria of the fabric:
 - a) Names and address of the owners of the tent, canopy or air-supported structure.
 - b) Date the fabric was last treated with flame-retardant solution.
 - c) Trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment.
 - d) Name of person or firm treating the material.
 - e) Name of testing agency and test standard by which the fabric was tested.

Tent Company Representative

Date

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