



Alameda County Fire Department

Bureau of Fire Prevention

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR CARNIVALS AND FAIRS

This Informational Bulletin has been developed by the Alameda County Fire Department to summarize the fire and life safety regulations relating to temporary carnival and fairs. For Tents and Membrane Structures see Fire Prevention Informational Bulletin – Tents and Membrane Structures.

Fire Code Regulations:

1. A Fire Department permit may be required for all carnivals and street fairs. Safety inspections will be conducted by the Fire Department prior to the commencement of operations. (2019 CFC 105.6.5)
2. Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided. Access roads shall be a minimum 20-foot wide. Utility services to booths and stands shall be so located that they do not create a hazard. It is preferred that they 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. (2019 CFC 503.2)

Concession Stands, Booths and Spaces:

1. Spacing requirements are based upon the activity of each concession stand, booth or space. The following guidelines shall be followed. (2019 CFC 3103.8)
 - 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.
 - 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. Cooking appliances shall be outside and separated a minimum of 20 feet from the closest concession stand, booth, or space. Each grouping shall be separated by a minimum of 20 feet.
2. All fabric or membrane covered booths must be certified flame retardant and have a State Fire Marshal seal attached.
3. All decorative material shall be treated “fire resistive” or inherently fire resistive. Certification documentation is required.
4. Each booth shall have a minimum of one 30” wide by 6’8” high exit way.

Fire Extinguishers:

1. Fire Extinguisher layout of non-food booths shall be determined upon submittal of site layout plan.
2. Booths with cooking shall provide a minimum 40-BC rated fire extinguisher. If cooking activity is located outside booth, the 40BC extinguisher shall be in addition to the 2A10BC required above. All extinguishers shall be certified for year of use and have a current State Fire Marshal certification tag

attached.

3. All extinguishers shall be visible and accessible at all times, preferably mounted near a point of egress.
4. When a generator is used, one 40BC fire extinguisher must be located within 50 feet of the generator's location and it must be readily accessible.

Cooking Equipment:

1. All flammable liquid/gas fueled appliances shall be equipped with an accessible on/off valve.
2. Flammable liquid/gas fueled appliances shall have the fuel capacity to operate for the entire day. Refueling in the booth or space is prohibited.
3. Spare compressed gas cylinders shall be limited to one 20lb cylinder for each cooking appliance. Spare tanks shall not be stored in the booth.
4. All compressed cylinders shall be secured in an upright position. Turn off cylinders when not in use.
5. The testing of all connections of pressurized supply lines must be conducted using a soapy water solution.
6. 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.
7. Permitted cooking in booths shall be on sturdy not readily combustible tables and separated from all readily combustible materials by a minimum of 18 inches.
8. Fires used for preparation of food shall be limited to clean fire wood or commercially produced briquettes.
9. The device shall not be placed within the fire apparatus access roadway or a public access way. (2019 CFC 503.4)
10. All fires shall be constantly attended and extinguished when no longer needed. (2019 CFC 307.5)
11. Only electrical starter or charcoal lighter fuels are permitted to start fires. Fuel may not be stored in booth.

Electrical Equipment:

1. Electrical equipment and installations shall comply with the Electrical Code. (2019 CFC 605 and 3104.15.7)
 - Extension cords shall be U.L. listed for their use, located so they do not present a tripping hazard and are placed out of foot traffic areas. Secure cords as necessary with tape or ties.
 - Cords must be plugged directly into an approved receptacle and shall serve only one appliance.
 - The current capacity of the cord in amperes shall not be less than the rated capacity of the appliance or fixture and the cord. (recommended minimum of 12 AWG extension cords be used minimum)
 - Extension and appliance cords shall be in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.
 - Extension and appliance cords shall be of the grounded type when serving grounded appliances or fixtures.

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- Extension cords may not be run in series.

Generator use:

1. Generators shall be isolated from contact with the public by physical barrier. (2019 CFC 3106.6.2)
2. Generators shall have the fuel capacity to operate uninterrupted for the event operating hours. If refueling is required, the generator must shut down and cooled. (2019 CFC 3104.18.5.2)
3. Contact the Building Department to obtain permits (if applicable) and grounding requirements.
4. All cords from generators must not create a tripping hazard or cross fire lanes unprotected.

House Keeping and General Fire Safety Requirements

1. Flammable and combustible liquids shall not be stored in or within 50 feet of tents and canopies. (2019 CFC 3107.14)
2. All weeds, combustible vegetation, trash and combustible storage shall be removed from areas adjacent to and within 30 feet of tents and canopies. Floor surfaces inside and within 30 feet of canopies shall be kept free and clear of combustible waste. (2019 CFC 3107.18)
3. 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. Solid-fuel-burning equipment shall be provided with an approved spark arrestor having openings not exceeding ¼ inch wire mesh. (2019 CFC 3107.2.2)
4. Fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 2A-10BC shall be provided as follows: one extinguisher for tents and canopies up to 500 square feet in floor area, two extinguishers for 501 to 1,000 square feet and one extinguisher for each additional 2,000 square feet of floor area or fraction thereof. (2019 CFC 3104.)
5. Smoking is prohibited in tents and canopies. Approved NO SMOKING signs shall be posted. The use of open flame devices such as candles is prohibited in tents and canopies. (2019 CFC 3104.6 & 3104.7)
6. Rubbish containers shall not exceed 40 gallons unless they are constructed of noncombustible materials. Rubbish containers in excess of 40 gallons shall also be provided with noncombustible lids. (2019 CFC 304.3.2)
7. 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 booths or stands. (2019 CFC 3104.22 & 304.3.3)

If you have any questions or wish to apply for a permit for a carnival, fair or to erect a tent or canopy, please contact the Fire Prevention Division for your area.

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