



PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

INFORMATION SHEET

Information Sheet#: 2013-001
Date Issued: August 18, 2013
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Topic: **TENT REQUIREMENTS**
Reference #1: 2016 California Fire Code - Chapter 31 / Tent Requirements

Note: *This information is being provided by the Pasadena Fire Department as a summary of the 2013 California Fire Code (CFC) which is adopted by City Ordinance as Title 14.28.010 of the Pasadena Municipal Code. This information is intended to be used as a brief summary of the CFC to be used as a quick reference guide and is not all inclusive and does not supersede other adopted codes and regulations.*

Tents and Canopies

- No distinction between tents and canopies....with or without walls.
- 12 foot Fire Break required for every 700 sq. ft. (10X10)
- Anchorage required (ropes, weights) to withstand negative impact of weather conditions
- Small Tents (under 10 occupancy) – conform to CPAI 84 for fabric fire resistance
- Large Tents (over 10) – conform to SFM fire resistive standard
- Fire Resistance Tag/Seal of Registration must be intact, legible and securely affixed.
- Occupancy Load, egress width, chair, table and aisle requirements mirror other assembly uses.
- Exit sign and exit lighting required for assembly areas (over 50 occupancy)
- Exit panels – contrasting color, free sliding, 80” min. height. No zip ties, Velcro, etc. during use.
- 100 feet maximum travel distance to Exit. Number of exits – Table 3103.12.2
- Tents must be maintained free of combustible materials
- Fire Safety Officer may be assigned at the discretion of the Fire Marshal
- 20 Feet Minimum Distance Required:
 - Any open flame device or heating appliance
 - Liquefied flammable gas or flammable/combustible liquid cooking when tents are occupied by the public.
 - Charcoal or solid fuel cooking when tents are occupied by the public
 - Between cooking tents and other tents
 - Any cooking or other operation that produces sparks or grease laden vapors
 - Parked vehicles
 - Generators
- 10 Feet Minimum Distance Required:
 - Cooking and heating equipment and combustible materials
 - Cooking and heating equipment and exits
 - Containers 500 Gallons and less

Fire Extinguishers

- Minimum legal size is 2A 10BC.
- BC only not enough (CO2 or sodium bicarbonate)
- Required every 75 feet of foot travel.
- Fire Extinguishers required for tents at 500 sq. ft. and every additional 2,000sq. ft.
- Hazard specific fire extinguishers required for every cooking related tent.
- Class K for deep fat fryers. One 1.5g for every 320 lbs. of oil. Within 30 feet.
- Service collar must be within 6 years
- Annual inspection (by Cal SFM registered company) must be noted on tag or label

Propane

- Tanks shall be separated from tents by a minimum of 10 feet
- Tanks should be separated from appliance by 5 feet or used per manufacturers specifications (NFPA 58)
- Safety Release Valves shall be pointing away from tent.
- Location of tanks shall provide protection from physical damage or other hazards.
- Tanks shall be secured in place in an approved manner.
- No propane, flammable/combustible liquids inside tents.
- Vehicles can be displayed in tents with conditions
- Other vehicles shall be no closer than 20 feet.

Generators

- 20 feet minimum from tents
- Positioned in a non-public areas
- Panels must be closed or covered
- Operated in accordance with manufacturers specifications (e.g. grounding)
- No additional regulation if fuel supply is under 5 gallons.

Required Fire Permits

- Storage or Use of Propane
- Place of Assembly
- Open Flame Cooking and Candles
- Carnivals and Fairs