



Buckeye Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division

TENT REQUIREMENTS

Effective immediately, this memo will detail the minimum requirements of the *International Fire Code* 2012 and the City of Buckeye Fire Department for conducting a Carnival/Fair that involves tents¹, membrane structures² and /or canopies³ in association with a planned event or any other event involving a tent, membrane structure and or canopies. An operational permit is required to be issued by the Fire Department prior to the event. The following items will be verified by the Fire Inspector on site **prior to the event beginning**.

- Fabric canopies open on all sides shall comply with the following.
 - Individual canopies cannot exceed seven hundred (700) square feet (IFC 3103.2.2.1.).
 - The aggregate area of multiple canopies placed side by side without a twelve (12) foot fire break cannot exceed seven hundred (700) square feet (IFC 3103.2.2.2).
 - A Minimum clearance of twelve (12) feet must be maintained to all structures and other tents (IFC 3103.2.2.3).
- Tents or membrane structures larger than two hundred (200) square feet and canopies larger than four hundred (400) square feet shall not be located within twenty (20) feet of lot lines, buildings, other tents, membrane structures or canopies, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines (IFC 3103.8.1).
- Membrane structures larger than fifteen thousand (15,000) square feet shall be placed a minimum of fifty (50) feet from other tents and/or structures (IFC 3103.8.3).
- All tents, membrane structures and canopies are to be adequately anchored to withstand the weather conditions and to prevent collapse. Documentation on the structural stability may be required from the manufacturer or a qualified engineer addressing the method of anchoring if required in the opinion of the Fire Code Official (IFC 3103.9).
- Means of egress (exit openings, egress illumination, aisles, etc.) for temporary tents and membrane structures are to comply with all of the requirements of the *International Fire Code* (IFC 3103.12).
- All tents, membrane structures, canopies and their appurtenances are to be **flame retardant** meeting NFPA 701 requirements (IFC 3104.2).



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- All tents, membrane structures and canopies are to have a permanent affixed label identifying the size and fabric or material type (IFC 3104.3).
- All tents, membrane structures and canopies are to be clearly posted with “No Smoking” signs (IFC 3104.6).
- Open or exposed flames, heating devices, flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking devices shall not be located inside or within twenty (20) feet of any tent, membrane structure or canopy unless specifically approved by the Fire Department (IFC 3104.7).
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall not be located inside or within twenty (20) feet of any tent, membrane structure or canopy and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means (IFC 3104.19).
- There shall be a minimum three (3) foot clearance between the contents located inside and the fabric envelope of the tent or membrane structure (IFC 3104.11).
- Portable fire extinguishers having a minimum rating of 2-A:10-B:C shall be placed so that the maximum travel distance of seventy five (75) feet is not exceeded (IFC 3104.12 and NFPA 10-2010, table 5.2.1).
- All tents, membrane structures and canopies used for assembly purposes shall have their occupant load posted and meet the requirements of Chapter 10 (IFC 3104.14).
- All cooking that produces grease laden vapors shall have an approved ventilation hood and automatic fire suppression system installed if conducted in a tent, membrane structure or under a canopy otherwise cooking is prohibited in a tent, membrane structure or under a canopy (IFC 3104.15.1).



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- Portable Class “K” fire extinguishers shall be placed so that the maximum travel distance of thirty (30) feet is not exceeded to the cooking appliance(s) (IFC 904.11.5).
- All outdoor cooking (i.e.: barbeques, mobile vehicles, etc.) shall not be conducted within twenty (20) feet of a tent, canopy or membrane structure (IFC 3104.15.6).
- All LP gas containers shall be located outside with a minimum distance of ten (10) feet for all containers five hundred (500) gallons or less and a minimum of twenty five (25) feet for all containers greater than five hundred (500) gallons from any tent, membrane structure or canopy (IFC 3104.16.2).
- Portable LP gas containers shall be securely fastened in place to prevent unauthorized movement and adequately protected from tampering or damage and shall be located in an approved location (IFC 3104.16.3).
- All fire lanes to the site and around the tents, membrane structures and/or canopies are to remain clear and open during the entire event (IFC 503.4).

The applicant may need to check with other departments (Special Events, Planning/Zoning, and Building Safety) within the City of Buckeye for additional permit requirements.

¹**TENT**- A structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects.

²**MEMBRANE STRUCTURE**- An air inflated, air supported, cable or frame-covered structure as defined by the International Building Code and not otherwise defined as a tent or canopy. See Chapter 31 of the International Building Code.

³**CANOPY**- A structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable materials supported by any manner, except by air or the contents it protects, and is open without sidewalls or drops on 75 percent or more of the perimeter.