



PETALUMA FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
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FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD: HAUNTED HOUSES
EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/01/2010
CODE REFERENCES: 2007 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE (CFC) & 2007 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE (CBC)
NOTE: <i>THIS STANDARD IS A SUMMARY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CLARIFICATIONS OF CITY AND STATE CODES. INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN APPLIES TO TYPICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND MAY NOT ADDRESS ALL SITUATIONS.</i>

SCOPE

This standard has been developed to assist members of the community in designing and operating a Haunted House.

CODES AND STANDARDS

This standard shall apply to a building, or portion thereof, temporary or permanent, used for entertainment or educational purposes that contains a system that transports passengers or provides a walkway through a course so arranged that the means of egress are not apparent due to theatrical distractions, or are disguised or are not readily available due to the method of transportation through the building or structure. Said haunted house shall be constructed in accordance with the 2007 California Building Code (CBC) and the 2007 California Fire Code (CFC).

PERMITS REQUIRED

A permit to operate a haunted house shall be obtained in advance from the Fire Department. *Ch. 105.6.2 CFC 2007.*

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. PLAN SUBMITTAL

Provide three (3) sets of floor plans showing the full maze; egress system; sprinkler system; fire alarm system; dimensions of rooms; height of walls; aisle and exit widths; location of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and exit signs. Plans shall also include: the site address, dates and hours of operation, and the name and phone number(s) of the person(s) in charge. Plans shall show the entire building even if only a portion of the building is being utilized. *Ch. 404.3.2 CFC 2007.*

2. FIRE WATCH

Provide an "Approved Fire Watch": The owner, agent or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved by the Fire Marshal, to be on duty at such place, and remain on duty during open hours for the public, or when such activity

is being conducted. Before the start of the activity, the fire watch individual(s) shall inspect all required fire appliances provided to ensure that they are in the proper place and in good working order, and shall keep diligent watch for fires during the time such place is open to the public or such activity is being conducted and take prompt measures for extinguishment of fires that may occur. The fire watch individual(s) shall not be required or permitted, while on duty, to perform any other duties than those herein specified. *Ch.403.1, 403.1.1 CFC 2007.*

3. SAFETY PROVISIONS

All walls used for the maze corridors shall be open at the top unless sprinkler heads are dropped down below the ceiling. *Ch. 903.3.1.1, 903.3.3 CFC 2007.*

All walls of the maze shall be secured in a safe manner as to prevent them from falling.

Temporary electrical wiring shall be securely fastened to the top of the walls and shall terminate all splices within covered electrical junction boxes.

A responsible adult shall be stationed at the electrical panel whenever the public is present to activate overhead lighting should an emergency occur.

Tour guides shall be provided for all tours taken through the “haunted house maze”. The tour guides shall be experienced in walking the maze and be familiar with the locations of emergency exits and the locations of fire extinguishers. They shall also be knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishers.

Provide approved address numbers on the building. Numbers shall be of adequate dimension (6 inches minimum), contrast in color to background, and be clearly visible from the street fronting the property.

Provide “NO SMOKING” signs.

Candles, other open-flame devices, and carbon monoxide-producing equipment are prohibited.

Provide a certificate stating all decorative materials have been treated and are flame retardant. Said certificate(s) will be retained by the Fire Department. Decorative materials are materials such as curtains, draperies, streamers, cloth, cotton batting, straw, vines, leaves, trees (including Christmas trees), netting, and surface coverings applied over the buildings’ interior finish for decorative, acoustical, or other effect. Decorative materials shall not obstruct or conceal exit doors, exit signs, sprinkler heads or portable fire extinguishers. Plastic sheeting is not permitted. *Ch. 8 CFC 2007.*

4. EXIT MARKING

Approved exit signs and directional exit markings shall be provided and approved by the Fire Department. All exit signs shall be illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for a duration of not less than ½ hour in case of primary power loss, the exit signs shall be connected to an emergency electrical system provided from storage

batteries, unit equipment or an on-site generator set, and the system shall be installed in accordance with the Electrical Code. *Ch. 1006 CBC 2007.*

A minimum of two (2) exits is required. Maintain all exits a minimum of 44" in width. *Ch. 10 CBC 2007.*

5. SPRINKLER SYSTEM

An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed in all amusement buildings. The main water flow switch shall be electrically supervised. The sprinkler main shutoff valve shall be supervised. When the amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply system may be of an approved temporary type. *Ch. 914.7 CFC 2007.*

NOTE: All fire sprinkler systems, both temporary and permanent, must be installed according to all applicable NFPA standards including, but not limited to, NFPA 13. Plans must be prepared by a licensed Fire Protection Engineer or C-16 fire sprinkler contractor. Installation of the system must be conducted by a licensed C-16 fire sprinkler contractor.

EXCEPTION: An automatic sprinkler system need not be provided when the floor area of a temporary amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet and the exit travel distance from any point is less than 50 feet. *Ch. 914.7.1 CFC 2007.*

6. FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

An approved smoke detection system shall be installed. Activation of any single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system, or other automatic fire-detection device shall immediately sound an alarm in the building at a constantly supervised location from which the manual operation of the system may be initiated.

Ch. 907.2.11, 914.7.2 CFC 2007.

EXCEPTION: In areas where ambient conditions will cause a smoke detector system to alarm, an approved alternate type of automatic detector shall be installed.

EXCEPTION: Single station smoke detectors may be used for a temporary haunted house setup.

7. PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

A public address system that is audible throughout the amusement building shall be provided. The public address system may also serve as an alarm system. *Ch.907.2.11.3 CFC 2007.*

8. ELECTRICAL PROVISIONS

Provide approved extension cords and fused multi-plug extension cords. All temporary wiring and receptacles in the building must be on a GFI (Ground Fault Interrupter) circuit.

9. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Provide a minimum 2A10BC rated fire extinguisher at all exit doors. Fire extinguishers shall also be located within 50 feet travel distance from any point within the building, and must be easily visible and accessible. *Title 19 CCR, Chapter 3.*

Fire extinguishers must have a current California State Fire Marshal service tag attached.

Fire extinguishers must be mounted on the wall between 3' and 5' from floor to top of extinguisher.

10. FINAL CLEARANCE

Final clearance is subject to field inspection and necessary tests shall be obtained from the Fire Department prior to occupancy. After the final clearance and the establishment is open to the public, random inspections may be performed at any time during business hours.

For final inspection, call the Petaluma Fire Prevention Bureau at (707) 778-4389 a minimum of 48 hours (i.e., two (2) business days) prior to opening.