



## **TENT, TEMPORARY AIR SUPPORTED & AIR INFLATED MEMBRANE STRUCTURES**

### **TENT**

#### **Needs a permit if:**

1. If a tent requires a permit the tent, all sidewalls and combustible materials must have a certificate showing that they meet the performance criteria of NFPA 701.
2. Tents in excess of 400 square feet (with or without sides) or a group of tents placed side by side in excess of 400 square feet that is located on or within 20 feet of a structure.
3. Tents with any sides in excess of 400 square feet or a group of tents placed side by side in excess of 400 square feet located greater than 20 feet from a structure or other tent.
4. Tents greater than 700 square feet or a group of tents placed side by side in excess of 700 square feet.
5. Any air supported temporary membrane structure greater than 100 square feet.
6. A minimum of a 12 foot separation shall be required between each tent of group of tents that exceed 700 square feet.
7. A minimum of 12 foot separation is required between cooking tents and merchandise tents.
8. Structures of or in excess of 15,000 square feet shall be separated by not less than 50 feet from other tents or structures.
9. They shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapse.
10. Tent exit openings shall remain open unless covered by a flame resistant curtain. The curtain should be free sliding on a metal support installed a minimum of 80 inches above the floor and no part of the curtain may obstruct the exit when open.
11. Curtains shall be of a color, or colors that contrasts with the color of the tent.
12. Exits shall be spaced at approximately equal intervals around the perimeter of the tent and no point under the tent shall be more than 100 feet from an exit.
13. Number of exits and minimum width of each exit shall comply with table 3103.12.2

**TABLE 3103.12.2  
MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS AND MEANS OF  
EGRESS WIDTHS FROM TEMPORARY MEMBRANE STRUCTURES AND TENTS**

OCCUPANT LOAD	MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS	MINIMUM WIDTH OF EACH MEANS OF EGRESS (inches)	
		Tent	Membrane Structure
10 to 199	2	72	36
200 to 499	3	72	72
500 to 999	4	96	72
1,000 to 1,999	5	120	96
2,000 to 2,999	6	120	96
Over 3,000 <sup>a</sup>	7	120	96

<sup>a</sup>or SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

i. When the occupant load exceeds 3,000, the total width of means of egress (in inches) shall not be less than the total occupant load multiplied by 0.2 inches per person.

14. Isles for employees must be a minimum of 24 inches.
15. Isles for public must be a minimum of 44 inches and shall be progressively increased in width to provide, at all points, not less than 1 foot of aisle width for each 50 persons served by such aisle at that point.
16. Exit signs should be installed at each door to direct public to the exit when the tent serves more than 50 people.
17. Exit signs shall be lighted and have backup power. Two separate power sources are required.
18. Building permits must be obtained from City of Austin Building department where required.
19. Guy wires, guy ropes and other support members shall not cross a means of egress at a height of less than 8 feet.
20. Combustible materials such as hay, straw, shavings or similar materials shall not be located within any tent containing a public assembly.
21. Place of assembly for tents or temporary membrane structures includes the following: circus, carnival, tent show, theater, skating rink, dance hall or other place of assembly in or under which persons gather for any purpose.
22. No smoking is permitted in tents and "No Smoking" signs shall be posted.
23. No open flame devices or other heating or cooking devices are allowed unless approved by the fire code official.
24. Fire extinguishers are required. One 2A10BC classification for every 3000 square feet with no more than 75 foot of travel to reach an extinguisher regardless of square footage.
25. The Occupant Load shall be calculated using the appropriate calculations from chapter 10 of the IBC.
26. All fryers must be located at the rear of the tent. All other cooking appliances in tents should be located at the rear or side of the tent unless otherwise approved by the fire code official. Propane bottles shall be located outside of the tent. No spare bottles shall be stored inside of tent.
27. No cooking or heating equipment shall be located within 10 foot of an exit.

28. The number of appliances fueled by propane per vendor will be determined by the AFD inspector. Event setup, manufacturer recommendations, and public safety are a few of the things that AFD takes into consideration when making a determination of the number of propane fueled appliances allowed per vendor. A maximum 100 lbs. of propane in use per appliance, with a 200 lb. maximum of propane in use allowed per vendor.
29. No use or storage of flammable and combustible liquids or devices is allowed under tents. No storage of flammable and combustible liquids is allowed within 50 foot of a tent.
30. Vehicles displayed in tents shall have 5 gallons or ¼ tank of fuel whichever is less. Their batteries shall be disconnected. Fuel tank openings shall be locked and sealed to prevent escape of vapors and vehicles shall not obstruct the means of egress. Any refueling shall take place outside of the tent and at least 20 foot from tent.
31. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents by a minimum of 20 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing or enclosure or other approved means.
32. Combustible vegetation shall be removed from areas within 30 feet of tents.
33. Electrical heating equipment must be installed per their UL listing (usually 3 foot clearance from combustibles).

## **TEMPORARY AIR SUPPORTED AND AIR INFLATED MEMBRANE STRUCTURES**

1. During high winds exceeding 50 miles per hour the use of doors shall be controlled to avoid excessive air loss and may not remain open.
2. Their construction of the fabric envelope and the method of anchoring shall comply with ASI 77.
3. Structures used as a place of assembly (see # 21) shall have a minimum of 2 blowers with adequate capacity to maintain full inflation in case of failure of one blower.
4. For places of assembly for more than 200 persons, auxiliary power (generator) shall be provided to power one blower continuously for 4 hours.
5. Doors shall swing in direction of exit travel and shall be automatic closing to prevent pressure loss.
6. Exit doors shall open with 15 pounds or less of pressure.
7. All temporary air supported and air inflated membrane structures may require AFD Engineer review.