

# FARMINGTON FIRE-RESCUE



***"Serving Those in Need"***

430 Third St.  
Farmington, MN 55024  
651-280-6940



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## Tents and Other Membrane Structures

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Subject: Tents and other membrane structures shall be installed or modified with a fire inspection permit and comply with the following requirements:

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### Statement of Purpose:

The Farmington Fire-Rescue Departments intent is to provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the permitting process and code requirements pertaining to erecting tents or temporary membrane structures within the City of Farmington and promote public safety. The Farmington Fire-Rescue Department is charged with the responsibility of issuing permits for erecting tents or temporary membrane structures within the City of Farmington. All tents and temporary membrane structures that meet the following definitions are required to have an inspection by the Deputy Fire Chief before permits are issued.

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### Submittal Requirements:

- A check made out to the City of Farmington in the amount required as stated on permit application.
- A completed fire inspection permit application signed by the property owner.
- Provide a description of walls to be used, i.e. permanent, movable/removable, due to weather condition.
- Provide two copies of a detailed site or floor plan showing the seating arrangement, exits and locations of portable fire extinguishers. One approved copy must remain on site at all times.
- Provide a detailed description of all activities that will be occurring, the hours of the event and the approximate number of participants.
- Provide a certificate, executed by an approved testing laboratory, certifying the flame resistance of materials used to construct the tent are in compliance with NFPA Standard 701.
- Provide flame-spread rating information for materials used as ceiling and/or wall decorations.

### Definitions:

- **Air-Supported Structure.** A structure wherein the shape of the structure is attained by air pressure, and occupants of the structure are within the elevated pressure area.
- **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. Temporary Assemblies and Tents FP 50-2005 Page 2 of 4
- **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.
- **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.

### General Requirements:

- Documentation must be provided showing all draperies, decorative fixtures, and other fabrics and materials have been treated with an approved fire retardant material.
- Fire Extinguishers required: Provide a portable fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 4A-60BC in every cooking facility. When cooking operations utilize oil or animal fat, a K class portable fire extinguisher is required. Fire extinguishers must be mounted in an approved and accessible location and bear a tag certifying that it has been inspected within the last year by a licensed contractor. Additional fire extinguishers shall be provided at 75 foot spacing. Fire extinguishers shall be located no closer than 10 feet to a hazard and no further than 50 feet from the hazard. All extinguishers shall be mounted waist high.
- Tents and canopies must have a permanently attached label stating the material is fire retardant.
- Tents shall be at least 20 feet from lot lines, structures, parked vehicles, or internal combustion engines as noted in MSFC 3103.8.2.
- Fireworks are not permitted within 100 feet of tents.
- Venting shall be to the exterior with approved spark arrestors. Vents shall not be placed within 12 inches of the tent.
- Cooking and heating equipment (no tent) shall be at least 10 feet from exits and combustible materials.
- Cooking tents: Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet.
- Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall be at least 20 feet away from a tent, canopy, or membrane structure.
- L.P. gas must be secured outside of a tent with the following separations; Containers 500 gallons – 25 feet
- Temporary indoor or outdoor assemblies and temporary use of tents in excess of 200 square feet or canopies in excess of 400 square feet are allowed with a fire inspection. Temporary assemblies and tents shall comply with the Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC), 2015 edition, Chapter 31
  - Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes
  - Tents open on all sides which comply with all of the following:
    - ❖ 2.1. Individual tents having a maximum size of 700 square feet (65 m<sup>2</sup>).
    - ❖ 2.2. The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet (3658mm), not exceeding 700 square feet (65m<sup>2</sup>) total.
    - ❖ 2.3. A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to all structures and other tents.

### Procedure:

- Flammable Liquids shall not be stored within 50 feet from the tent.
- Generators shall be at least 20 feet from tents.
- Vegetation and waste materials shall be at least 30 feet from tent.
- Provide flame-spread rating information for materials used as wall and/or ceiling decorations.
- Post “No Smoking” signs every 50 feet. Letters shall be 1-1/2” in height, ¼” stroke red on white background.
- Combustible materials such as hay, straw, wood shavings, sawdust and similar material shall not be located in a tent containing an assembly occupancy.
  - Exception: Materials necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals and materials that are kept damp. Combustible trash shall be removed from tents once each day.
- If permanent walls/curtains are used, exit sign and emergency lights are required.

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Inspections Required:

- The Farmington Deputy Fire Chief must be contacted for final inspection of the completed job.

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Rationale: Minnesota State Fire Code, and all applicable NFPA standards

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**No Work shall be started without a permit and reviewed set of plans on the job site.**

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