



Tent

Tents and Canopies

The following handout is a simplified version of Chapter 31 of the California Fire Code regarding tents, temporary membrane structures, and Canopies.



Canopy

A tent is a temporary structure, enclosure, or shelter, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by the contents it protects.

A canopy is a temporary membrane structure, enclosure, or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable materials supported by any manner except by the contents it protects, and is open without sidewall or drops on 75 percent or more of the perimeter.

An awning is a shelter supported entirely from the exterior wall of a building.

A temporary membrane structure is an air-inflated, air-supported, cable, or frame-covered structure as described in the Building Code and not otherwise defined as a tent, canopy, or awning.

Permits: Tents or temporary membrane structures in excess of **200 square feet** and canopies in excess of **400 square feet** shall be required to obtain a fire permit. (209-468-3380)

Use period: Tents, canopies, or temporary membrane structures shall be used for a period of not more than **180 days within a 12-month period on a single premise.**

- **Exception:** Tents, canopies, or membrane structures installed for more than 180 days shall comply with the California Building Code and be installed with a Building Permit.

Flame resistance: The sidewalls, tops, and drops of tents, canopies, and temporary membrane structures shall be composed of flame-resistant material or treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner.

Portable Fire Extinguishers: A minimum of one 2A10BC portable fire extinguisher shall be provided in a tent, canopy, or temporary membrane structure and additional ones may be required as outlined in CFC 906

Smoking: Smoking shall not be permitted in tents, canopies or temporary membrane or in adjacent areas where combustible materials are stored. **"No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted.**

Fireworks, open flames, or fireworks shall not be used in or adjacent to a tent, canopy or temporary membrane structure, unless otherwise approved.

Vegetation Removal: Combustible vegetation shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent, canopy, or temporary membrane structure and from areas within 30 feet of such structures.

Cooking and Heating: Cooking and heating equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, valves, tubing, and other related components shall be approved and in accordance with the Mechanical Code.

- a) Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials.
- b) Where approved cooking is performed, there shall be a 20-foot separation maintained from other temporary tents or canopies.
- c) Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of temporary membrane structures, tents, and or canopies.
 - **Exception:** Cooking and heating equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, valves, tubing, and other related components that are approved and are in accordance with the Mechanical Code.