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SPECIAL EVENT TENTS & CANOPIES

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Maricopa Fire Department

Excerpts from the International Fire Code® 2006 - Chapter 24

2402.1 - Definitions

CANOPY - a structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric of pliable materials supported in 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.

TENT - a structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric of pliable materials supported in any manner, except by air, or the contents that it protects.

2403.2 - Approval required

Tents having an area in excess of 200 square feet and canopies having an area in excess of 400 square feet must obtain a permit from the City of Maricopa unless specified as an exception to this rule.

2403.7 - Inspections

All tents and canopies used for public special events or activities are subject to inspection.

2403.9 - Anchorage required

Tents and canopies shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official on request. *(see photos on other side)*

2404.5 - Combustible materials

Hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials inside any tent or canopy to be occupied are prohibited, unless they are necessary for the care and feeding of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for a public performance or exhibit are allowed provided they are kept damp. Combustible materials under stands or seats are prohibited. The areas within and adjacent to the tent or canopy shall be maintained clear of all combustible materials or vegetation that could create a fire hazard within 20 feet of the structure. Combustible trash shall be removed at least once a day from the structure during the period the structure is occupied by the public.

2404.12 - Portable fire extinguishers

Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as required by Section 906. *(Applies to cooking in or near tents and canopies. An extinguisher must be available within 30 feet of the structure.)*

2404.15.5 - Cooking tents

Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents by a minimum of 20 feet.

2404.19 - Separation of generators

Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents and canopies by a minimum of 20 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means. *(Applies to gas cans, fuel containers and extension cords where generators are providing a power source within the structure.)*

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How to Properly Secure Tents & Canopies



Tents on turf areas or grass should be adequately secured with tent stakes on all sides / at all corners.

TOP - Options for securing tents include:

- (photos left) filled water bottles with bungee cords wrapped tightly around the tent leg and secured to the bottles - **minimum 4 btls./leg.**
- (photos right) sand bags tied securely around the tent leg - **sand bags filled to 30 pounds each**
- tent /stationery weights - **min. 30 lbs. per leg**

BOTTOM - Portable Fire Extinguisher

For any tent where cooking is involved, there must be a **portable fire extinguisher within 30 feet** of the tent.

Grills or other cooking appliances must be located outside the tent perimeter/walls/overhang and be a minimum of 20 feet from adjacent tents.



Portable fire Extinguisher within 30 feet

Grill outside tent