



MT. ANGEL FIRE DISTRICT

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Emergency & Fire 9-1-1

Mt. Angel Fire District Guidance on Oregon Fire Code Compliance for Special Events

Introduction

The Mt. Angel community has experienced a wonderful increase in new and exciting events over the past couple of years, bringing us all together and showcasing the spirit of our town. The Mt. Angel Fire District is thrilled to support these gatherings and ensure they remain safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Key Fire Code Provisions for Event Planning

1. Fire Department Access (Section 503.4):

- Fire apparatus access roads must remain unobstructed at all times, including during events involving street closures or temporary structures. Clear access ensures emergency vehicles can respond swiftly when needed.

2. Tents and Temporary Structures (Chapter 31):

- **Permits:**
 - Tents exceeding 400 square feet and canopies over 700 square feet require a permit. Event organizers should contact the Mt. Angel Fire District in advance to determine if a permit and inspection are necessary.
- **Location and Spacing:**
 - Tents must be at least 20 feet from buildings, other tents, parked vehicles, and internal combustion engines to maintain clear access routes and reduce fire hazards. Structures larger than 15,000 square feet require additional spacing.
- **Fire-Resistant Materials:**
 - Tents must be constructed from flame-resistant materials with certification labels affixed as proof. Documentation must be provided upon request.
- **Anchoring**
 - All tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances 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.
- **Open Flame Restrictions:**
 - Open flames, including cooking devices and heaters, are generally prohibited inside or within 20 feet of tents unless pre-approved by the Fire District. Cooking tents must be separated by at least 20 feet from other structures unless equipped with automatic fire-extinguishing systems.
- **Exits and Signage:**
 - Tents must have clearly marked exits. Structures accommodating more than 50 people require illuminated exit signs and appropriate egress spacing as outlined in OFC Section 3103.12.

3. Electrical and Heating Equipment:

- Electrical wiring and heating equipment must comply with NFPA 70 standards and maintain proper venting and clearance. Generators must be located at least 20 feet from tents and equipped with portable fire extinguishers.

Why Compliance Matters

- **Rapid Emergency Response:**
 - Unobstructed access allows emergency services to respond swiftly, protecting lives and property.
- **Enhanced Public Safety:**
 - Adhering to fire code provisions ensures a safer environment for attendees, staff, and emergency responders.
- **Proactive Event Planning:**
 - Coordinating with the Mt. Angel Fire District before your event helps plan alternate response routes and ensures emergency services are prepared for street closures or temporary setups.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with the Oregon Fire Code can result in fines, permit revocation, or event shutdowns. More importantly, non-compliance risks delaying emergency responses, potentially leading to injuries or increased property damage. The Mt. Angel Fire District is here to help organizers understand and meet these requirements, ensuring public safety remains our top priority.

Additional Resources

- **Permit Application and Inspections:**
 - Contact the Mt. Angel Fire District to confirm your event's permit and inspection requirements. Be prepared to submit detailed site and floor plans for structures with an occupant load exceeding 50 people. Tent applications and further event guidance can be found at www.mtangelfire.org.
- **Weather and Emergency Planning:**
 - Designate a weather monitor for outdoor events to initiate safety actions during adverse conditions. Ensure all plans include clear evacuation routes.
- **Crowd Management:**
 - Events exceeding 1,000 attendees must include trained crowd managers at a ratio of 1 manager per 250 attendees as specified in OFC Section 3106.

Conclusion

The Mt. Angel Fire District encourages all event planners to incorporate these fire code provisions into their planning process. Early coordination with the Fire District will help prevent issues and ensure a safe and successful event. For assistance or further clarification, please contact the Mt. Angel Fire District. We are dedicated to making your event safe and enjoyable.

Thank you for your collaboration and commitment to public safety.