



SPECIAL EVENT TENTS & CANOPIES

Approved by Brad Pitassi, Deputy Chief & Eddie Rodriguez, Fire Marshal
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Definitions

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

Excerpts from the International Fire Code® 2018 CHAPTER 31 TENTS, TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENT STRUCTURES, AND OTHER MEMBRANE STRUCTURES

BE ADVISED: The City of Maricopa has adopted the 2018 International Fire Code. Below is a list of common considerations but does not exempt the rest of the code. Vendors are responsible for adhering to the entire IFC Code.

3103.2 Approval required.

Tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet (37 m²) shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the *fire code official*.

3103.7 Inspections.

The entire tent, air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structure system shall be inspected at regular intervals, but not less than two times per permit use period, by the permittee, *owner* or agent to determine that the installation is maintained in accordance with this chapter.

3103.7.1 Inspection report.

Where required by the *fire code official*, an inspection report shall be provided and shall consist of maintenance, anchors and fabric inspections.

3103.8.2 Location.

Tents or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of *lot lines*, buildings, other tents or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure or tent.

3103.9 Structural stability and anchorage required.

Tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be designed and installed to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the *fire code official*.



3106.4.4 Portable fire extinguishers.

Approved portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 shall be provided and placed in locations approved by the fire code official. (Extinguishers must be within thirty (30) feet from the structure)

3106.5.1 Separation from tents or structures.

Cooking appliances or devices that produce sparks or grease-laden vapors or flying embers (firebrands) shall not be used within 20 feet (6096 mm) of a tent or temporary structure.

3106.6.2 Generators.

Generators shall be installed not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from combustible materials, and shall be isolated from the public by physical guard, fence or enclosure installed not less than 3 feet (914 mm) away from the internal combustion power source. *(Applies to gas cans, fuel containers, and extension cords where generators are providing a power source within the structure)*

3107.2 Combustible materials.

Hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials shall not be located within any tent or membrane structure containing an assembly occupancy, except the materials necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for public performance or exhibit shall not be prohibited provided that the sawdust and shavings are kept damp. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under stands or seats at any time.

Please see the 2018 IFC for the complete list of requirements.

For any questions contact:

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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.