



Township of Lower Makefield
OFFICE OF THE FIRE SERVICE DIRECTOR
1100 Edgewood Road Yardley, PA 19067
(267) 274-1127 firesafety@lmt.org



TENTS & OTHER MEMBRANE STRUCTURES INFORMATION

Tents and membrane structures having an area more than 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated, or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the fire code official. A completed permit application with all required documents shall be submitted to the township for approval.



Reference Material when placing a tent:

- Detailed site and floor plan indicating means of egress, locations of tables, chairs, stages, generators, etc.
- NO SMOKING signs (required throughout the tent)
- Provide flame certification for all portions of the tent
- Locations of Fire Extinguishers (required throughout the tent)
- Fire Department Access Roads and designated fire lanes shall not be impeded by the tent. Access roads must maintain a clear width of 20 feet.
- Tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be adequately roped, braced, and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing. These systems shall be inspected by the contractor / owner periodically during the duration of the tent being up.
- Tents or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, other tents or membrane structures, parked vehicles, or internal combustion engines. Support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure or tent.
- An unobstructed fire break passageway or fire road not less than 12 feet wide and free from guy ropes or other obstructions shall be maintained on all sides of all tents and membrane structures unless otherwise approved by the fire code official.
- Approved barrier protection may be required to be installed around exterior of the tent to deter potential vehicular impacts.



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If tent will have 1 or more side panels, follow additional items below:

- Exits shall be clearly marked to indicate the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load for 50 or more. Refer to International Fire Code Table 3103.12.2 Minimum Number of Means of Egress for more information.
- Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire, heat, or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal, other cooking devices, or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or membrane structure while open to the public.
- Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials.
- A minimum of one 10 lb. ABC fire extinguisher shall be located at each posted exit.
- Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet from a tent or membrane structure.
- The interior of the tent or membrane structure and the exterior grounds within a 30-foot perimeter shall be kept free of combustible waste and other combustible material that could create a fire hazard. Such waste shall be stored in approved containers and removed from the premise.



This information sheet provides the minimum requirements for tents and membrane structures. Additional fire and life safety requirements may be necessary depending on the particular situation. These requirements will be at the discretion of the fire code official.

