

## GILROY TENTS & TEMPORARY MEMBRANE STRUCTURE CONDITIONS

### Definition:

- **Tent.** A shelter, structure or enclosure made of fabric or similar pliable material. This applies even when there are no sides, therefore a fabric canopy is considered a tent.
- **Membrane Structure.** An air-inflated, air-supported, cable or frame-covered structure as defined by the California Building Code and not otherwise defined as a tent. See Chapter 31 of the California Building Code.

### City Restrictions:

- Tents (including ones with no sides) used at Commercial or Residential locations, and that are over 120 sq ft, are also subject to Planning review, zoning restrictions and use permitting.
- Tents and temporary membrane structures are limited to 180 days of use per year per site without a Building Permit as a permanent structure.
- No tent shall have an open flame device in/under it except:
  - Sterno devices, or
  - Listed LPG cooking devices within the tent shall have the LPG tank stored outside and a listed fuel gas hose and pressure regulators attached. The LPG tank shall be secured and away from the public and 5 ft away from any heat source.
  - No deep fat frying or flambeau cooking, unless the roof of the tent is replaced with a noncombustible (metal) roof and cooking is 3 ft from sidewall of the tent.

**Fire Permits:** A Fire Code permit **is required when any one** of the following occurs:

- Any tent or temporary membrane structure that will have **10** or more persons under/in it, or
- Is over 400 square feet and is fully enclosed or open sided and over 700 sqft or
- Is at a festival or special event, in such cases the Special Event review will determine if a tent permit is also required. Most festivals have festival booth and tent conditions applied to them.

**Tents NOT requiring a Permit:** Any tent that is not required to have a Fire Code permit as indicated above shall have at least 12 ft kept clear around it. When many tents are clustered, they will be considered one tent and allowed unpermitted up to 700sqft. Such tents shall have a permanently affixed SFM label as required for large tents or shall meet the provisions of CPAI-84 including; Certification, Manufacturer's identification, Code number and Warning Label. Contact the Fire Marshal's office if you have concerns about a permit that does not have this information label.

### The following shall be followed for tents/membrane structures that require a Permit.

1. Tents and membrane structures that require a permit shall be within 150 ft of a road or driveway that is at least 20 ft wide.
2. Tents and temporary membrane structures shall be at least 20 feet away from buildings, lot lines, parked vehicles, internal combustion engines, or other temporary membrane structures or tents. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure or tent.
3. Membrane structures and tents 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 upon request.
4. Provide a certificate executed by the State Fire Marshal certifying that the tents and membrane structures and their appurtenances; sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins are made from a flame resistant fabric or material approved by the State Fire Marshal. The tent shall bear a label with the SFM seal or in lieu of the label, the registration information may be applied directly to the fabric by print, stamp or stencil.
6. If the tent is occupied by the public it will be considered a Public Assembly and an occupant load shall be posted as follows; Concentrated (chairs only) @ 7 sqft/person, Standing space @ 5 sqft/person, Un-concentrated (tables & chairs) @ 15 sqft/person.

7. Exits shall be provided in accordance with the following table:

Occupant Load	# of Exits	Min Width of Exit - Tents	MinWidth of Exit- Membrane
10 to 199	2	72 in.	36 in.
200 to 499	3	72 in.	72 in.
500 to 999	4	96 in.	72 in.
1,000 to 1,999	5	120 in.	96 in.

**Exits shall meet all of the following:**

- Exits shall be spaced at approximately equal intervals around the perimeter of the temporary membrane structure or tent and shall be located such that all points are 100 feet or less from an exit.
  - Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame-resistant curtain and the curtain shall be free sliding on a metal support. The support shall be a minimum of 80 inches above the floor level at the exit. Curtains shall be so arranged that, when open, no part of the curtains obstruct the exit. Curtains shall be of a color, or colors, that contrast with the color of the tent.
  - For membrane structures exit doors shall swing in the direction of exit travel. To avoid hazardous pressure loss from air supported structures, such doors shall be automatic closing against operating pressures. Opening force at the door edge shall not exceed 15 pounds (66 N).
  - The required width of exits, aisles and passageways to a public way shall be maintained at all times. Exits, aisles and passageways shall not be blocked or have their minimum clear width obstructed in any manner by ticket offices, turnstiles, concessions, chairs, equipment, animal chutes, poles or guy wires, or anything whatsoever, nor shall they be blocked by persons for whom no seats are available
  - The tent shall be provided with illumination while the structure is occupied and used after dark or is enclosed to reduce the visibility inside.
  - Exit signs shall installed at all exit doorways and where otherwise necessary to clearly indicate the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more. Illuminated signage may be required for enclosed tents or those used after dark.
  - Aisles in public areas shall have a minimum clear aisle width of 44 inches and aisles in employee only areas shall be a minimum clear width of 24". Larger aisles may be required by the Fire Marshal.
  - Aisles over 20 ft long shall terminate at a cross aisle, foyer, or exit doorway.
8. When 300 or more seats are provided, they shall be bonded and set up in arrays of not more than 14 seats with a minimum of 12" between seat front and back of seat in the next row.
9. Smoking shall not be permitted in any tent or temporary membrane structure. Approved "NO SMOKING" signs shall be conspicuously posted.
10. Decorative materials and curtains, floor coverings including sawdust, shavings, or hay shall be of flame-resistant material or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner.
11. Minimum fire extinguisher coverage shall be provided in every tent and temporary membrane structure as follows: one 2-A10BC extinguisher for each tent and an additional extinguisher for each 700 sq ft thereafter.
12. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure, or other approved means. Generators shall be grounded as required by the California Electric Code.