

Midlothian Fire Department
Fire Code Requirements for Special Events

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. All Special Events shall be in compliance with the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) as amended, and all other applicable codes and ordinances.
2. Adequate and unobstructed access for emergency vehicles and personnel (easily removable barricades, cones, etc.) shall be maintained at all times. Fire lanes and fire hydrants shall not be obstructed at any time.
3. Crowds and gatherings of 1,000 or more people shall be in compliance with IFC Chapter 4. A Public Safety Plan and trained crowd managers may be required.

FOOD TRUCKS, TRAILERS AND COOKING OPERATIONS

1. All food trucks and trailers cooking food on site shall be in compliance with fire code requirements for commercial cooking operations. **Food truck and trailer owners shall submit proof of fire code compliance to the Fire Marshal's Office a minimum of five days prior to the event. Documentation shall be submitted, mailed or emailed to the address below.** Inspection records shall remain with the vehicle for three years. Cooking appliances producing grease vapors inside food trucks and trailers shall be protected with a Type I commercial cooking hood and a UL300 fire suppression system. Both shall be compliant with IFC and NFPA 96 requirements. All fire protection equipment shall have a current annual inspection tag from a licensed fire protection contractor (every six months for cooking hood fire suppression systems). Cooking hoods shall have documentation of cleaning by a professional cleaning contractor within the last six months.
2. Food trucks and trailers shall not be parked within ten feet of any structure or building, or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
3. A minimum of one 2A:10BC fire extinguisher is required for each cooking operation. Food trucks and trailers, and any appliances producing grease vapors (grills, griddles, burners, fryers), shall also have a Class-K fire extinguisher. All fire extinguishers shall have a current annual inspection tag from a licensed fire protection contractor.
4. All open flame cooking (smokers, BBQ grills, etc.) shall contain all open flames, embers and grease run-off and shall not be located within ten feet of any combustible materials, structures or buildings. All cooking appliances shall be located where access is restricted to cooking staff only and not be directly accessible to the public.

ELECTRICAL AND HOUSEKEEPING

1. All electrical equipment shall be in compliance with NFPA 70, the National Electrical Code. Extension cords shall be adequate for the device, properly grounded, un-damaged and not create a tripping hazard. No exposed wiring allowed. Generators shall be at least ten feet away from vehicles, structures and buildings, and not be accessible to the public.
2. General housekeeping shall be neat and organized. Combustible and flammable materials shall be a minimum of three feet from ignition sources. Fuel gas systems shall be in good condition and in compliance with Federal, State and Local requirements.

TENTS AND MEMBRANE STRUCTURES

1. Tents and membrane structures shall be in compliance with IFC Chapter 31. Tents and membrane structures (including bounce houses) over 400 square feet in size shall require a permit from the Fire Marshal's Office and have a fire inspection completed prior to occupancy. A label with the size and type of material shall be attached to all tents and membrane structures. All tents and membrane structures shall be anchored properly and per the manufacturers recommendations.
 - a. Exception: Tents open on all sides and under 700 square feet in size.
2. Tents over 400 square feet in size, and not meeting the exception above, shall have the following:
 - a. A copy of the flame retardant treatment certification shall be provided to the Fire Marshal.
 - b. Illuminated exit signs
 - c. Egress illumination lights
 - d. One or more 2A:10BC fire extinguishers
 - e. No Smoking signs.
 - f. No open flames or cooking (without approval)
 - g. Ten-foot clearance from building and other tents.
 - h. All electrical wiring and equipment shall be in compliance with NFPA 70 Electrical Code.
3. Tents and membrane structures shall not be located in fire lanes or emergency access routes.

Vendors found to be non-compliant with fire code requirements will not be allowed to continue operations.

The 2015 IFC and amendments may be viewed at:
<http://www.midlothian.tx.us/589/International-Fire-Code>



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