



ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Prevention Office

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Conditions for Temporary Tents or Other Membrane Structures

- All tents must conform and comply with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, § Chapter 31, Tents and Other Membrane Structures. The Fire Prevention Office will review and inspect each application/location prior to approval
 - Greater than 120 square feet
 - Less than 900 square feet
 - If larger than 900 square feet a permit is required
 - Multiple tents separated by less than 12 feet at any point shall not exceed 900 square feet
 - Less than 50 occupants
 - More than 50 occupants a permit is required
 - Regular inspections of the entire tent at regular intervals by a licensed 3rd party
 - Maintain and produce inspection reports upon request of the Fire Code Official
 - Not erected on buildings, balconies, or other structures
 - Tents shall be anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing
 - Certificate of flame propagation performance testing or treatment
 - An affidavit or affirmation shall be submitted, and a copy retained on premises on which the tent or air-supported structure is located
 - The affidavit shall attest to all the following information relative to the flame propagation performance criteria of the fabric:
 - Names and address of the owners of the tent or air-supported structure
 - Date the fabric was last treated with flame-retardant solution
 - Trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment
 - Name of person or firm treating the material
 - Name of testing agency and test standard by which the fabric was tested
 - This certificate shall be filed with the Fire Prevention Office prior to approval
 - Combustible materials such as hay, straw or saw dust are prohibited in the tent
 - Smoking is prohibited under tents and shall be posted
 - No cooking is allowed under tents or membrane structures
 - Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances regardless of condition (on, off, with cylinder, without cylinder, etc.) may not be used, stored, or otherwise located under the tent
 - Portable open flame heating devices must be at least 5 feet from the tent
 - A notice of violation will be issued if the distance is not maintained
 - Repeated violations will result in review of the tent approval and possible revocation
 - The evacuation of all occupants, by the Fire Prevention Office, from the tent for unsafe conditions, will result if propane or other noncompliant heaters are found violating the fire code
- Approved Tents or Other Membrane Structures will be removed within 48 hours of the application expiration date.
- Fees shall be levied in accordance with the Arlington County Fire Prevention Code for operational permits and/or related inspections. [2021 FPO Fee Schedule](#)
 - Tents or Membrane Structures that require a permit will not be charged separate inspection fees

MISSION

We serve the community with compassion, integrity and commitment through prevention, education and a professional response to all hazards.