



Tents and Canopies for Outdoor Events in Foothills County

Land Use Bylaw Regulations & Applications

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CODES AND STANDARDS:

Special functions, such as weddings, sporting events, charity runs, music and cultural performances, block parties and other special events are subject to applicable safety regulations, bylaw rules and licensing requirements. These are intended to help keep the public safe and ensure special functions are run responsibly and are respectful of neighbours.

Whoever controls a property as an owner or renter is responsible for the safety of any guests. Tents should be installed by licensed and insured contractors and occupancy and use of such structures must conform to the Alberta Building and Fire Codes.

Excerpts from the Code articles that apply to temporary tent structures are included below.

You should know that:

1. Tent materials must conform to standard fire tests for Flame-resistant Textiles and Films or be treated with certified product.
2. The ground enclosed by a tent or air-supported structure and not less than three (3) meters of ground outside of the structure, shall be cleared of all flammable material or vegetation that will spread fire.
3. Installation must comply the engineered design provided by the tents' manufacturer for anchorage, wind load, snow load and rain load.
4. An access lane must be provided and maintained to ensure access into and throughout the site for emergency vehicles.
5. Unless illustrated to be unnecessary, emergency lights must be provided in temporary structures for occupancies greater than 60 people.
6. Emergency exit signage is required in temporary structures if occupancy is greater than 150 people.
7. Portable extinguishers must be provided for the protection of occupants and the building structure.
8. Spaces between rows of tables must not be less than 1,400 mm wide where seating is arranged back to back.
9. For non-fixed seating (assemblies), there should be a minimum of 400 mm of space between rows of seats.
10. Aisles must not be less than 1,100 mm wide and must be located so that there are not more than 7 seats between every seat and the nearest aisle.
11. The distance to an exit door by means of an aisle must not exceed 30 meters.

If you have questions, or for a complete list of requirements, please contact the Foothills County Building & Safety Codes Department, at 403-652-2341.

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