



LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE

Fire Prevention Division

Information Sheet



The items listed are basic information only. Please refer to adopted codes for specific details. Codes are subject to change. Additional requirements may apply.

Effective Date: January 5, 2026

Ordinance # 6918

Tents and Other Membrane Structures

Tent: A structure, enclosure or shelter, with or without sidewalls or drops, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects. IFC Chapter 2

Temporary tents, air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structures shall not be erected for a period of more than 180 days within a 12-month period on a single premises. IFC 3103.4

An operational permit is required to operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure, a temporary special event structure or a tent having an area in excess of 400 square feet (37 m²).

Exceptions:

1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
2. Tents, curtains and extensions attached thereto, when used for funeral services.
3. Tents open on all sides, which comply with all of the following:
 - a. Individual tents having a maximum size of 700 square feet (65 m²).
 - b. The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a fire break clearance of not less than 12 feet (3658 mm) shall not exceed 700 square feet (65 m²) total.
 - c. A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to structures and other tents shall be provided.

Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided in accordance with the International Fire Code Section 503. IFC 3103.7.1

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. For the purposes of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure or tent. IFC 3103.7.2

Tents or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be designed and installed to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official. IFC 3103.8

Exits shall be clearly marked. Exit signs shall be installed at required exit doorways and where otherwise necessary to indicate clearly the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more. IFC 3103.11.6

Exit signs shall either be the internally illuminated type or shall be externally illuminated from two separate sources of power one of which shall either be storage batteries or an emergency generator. The emergency system provided shall have a minimum duration of 90 minutes when operated at full design demand. IFC 3103.11.6.1

Means of egress shall be illuminated with light having an intensity of not less than 1 foot-candle at floor level while the structure is occupied. IFC 3103.11.7

The required width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times to a public way. Guy wires, guy ropes and other support members shall not cross a means of egress at a height of less than 8 feet. IFC 3103.11.8

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Before a permit is granted, the owner or agent shall file with the fire code official a certificate executed by an approved testing laboratory certifying that the tents and their appurtenances which include sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins, are composed of materials meeting the flame propagation performance of Test Method 1 or 2 of NFPA 701. IFC 3104.2

Membrane structures or tents shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the following information:

1. The identification of size and fabric or material.
2. The names and addresses of the manufacturers of the tent or air-supported structure.
3. A statement that the fabric or material meets the requirements of Section 3104.2 .
4. If treated, the date when a flame-retardant treatment was last applied to the fabric or material, the trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment, name of person or firm treating the fabric or material, and name of testing agency and test standard by which the fabric or material was tested.
5. If untreated, a statement that no treatment was applied when the fabric or material met the requirements of Section 3104.2. IFC 3104.3

Smoking shall not be permitted in tents or membrane structures. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted. IFC 3108.3

Portable fire extinguishers, with current certification tags attached, shall be provided as required by the International Fire Code Section 906 & the Nevada Administrative Code section 477.425. (Hazard Dependent) IFC 3108.9 & NAC 477.425

Hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials shall not be located within any tent or membrane structure containing an assembly occupancy, except the materials necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for a public performance or exhibit shall not be prohibited provided that the sawdust and shavings are kept damp. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under stands or seats at any time IFC 3108.2

Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official. IFC 3108.4

There shall be a clearance of not less than 3 feet (914 mm) between the fabric envelope and all contents located inside membrane structures. IFC 3108.8

Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of exits or combustible materials IFC 3108.12.3

Refueling shall be performed in an approved location not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) from tents or membrane structures IFC 3108.13.3

Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means IFC 3108.15

Combustible vegetation that could create a fire hazard shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent or membrane structure, and from areas within 30 feet (9144 mm) of such structures. IFC 3108.17

The floor surface inside tents or membrane structures and the grounds outside and within a 30-foot (9144 mm) perimeter shall be kept free from combustible waste and other combustible materials that could create a fire hazard. Such waste shall be stored in approved containers and removed from the premises not less than once a day during the period the structure is occupied by the public IFC 3108.18