

Charter Township of Clinton
Department of

FIRE - RESCUE - EMS

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TENTS

Clinton Township follows IFC 2015 codes regarding Tents and Permits. This is a partial list for the most common applications. Further information is found in IFC 2015. Owner, agent, lessee is responsible for all code requirements.

Approval Required. Tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated, or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a PERMIT (Township Office) and APPROVAL from the Township Board and on-site approval from both the Township Building Department and the Fire Department inspectors.

Exception: Tents used exclusively for recreational camping.

Exception: Tents open on all sides complying with all of the following; Individual tents maximum size of 700 square feet. Multiple tents side by side without 12' fire break clearance shall not have an aggregate area over 700 square feet. A minimum clearance of 12' to all other structures and other tents.

Construction documents. A detailed site and floor plan is required for tents with an occupant load of 50 or greater with the application for approval. The floor plan shall indicate means of egress, seating capacity, arrangement of the seating, and the location and type of heating/electrical equipment.

Location. Shall not be located within 20' of lot lines, buildings, other tents, parked vehicles, or internal combustion engines. Supports and guy wires shall be considered part of the tent.

Exception: The distance between tents and other tents/membrane structures can be reduced to 12' if no cooking is done in both tents and the aggregate floor area is less than 15,000 square feet. If over 15,000 square feet then the separation is 50 feet from structures.

Access. Fire department access roads shall be provided at a width of 20 feet to the tent.

Fire Break. An unobstructed fire break of 12' shall be maintained on all sides unless approved by the fire code official. This allows for emergency personnel and open space for flaming embers.

Anchorage required. Shall be adequately roped, braced, and anchored to withstand elements of weather and collapse. Documentation of structural stability shall be furnished to the fire code official upon request.

Distribution/Exits. Shall be placed approximately at equal intervals around the perimeter, and shall be located such that all points are 100 feet or less from an exit. **Aisles.** Unobstructed, smooth-surfaced, aisles of a minimum 44" is required from seating areas or as approved by the fire code official.

Flame propagation performance treatment. Shall furnish a certificate executed by an approved laboratory certifying the tent and appurtenance are composed of material meeting flame propagation of NFPA 701 or shall be treated with flame retardant approved by NFPA 70.

Label. Shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the identification of size and fabric or material type.

Certification. Affidavit or affirmation shall be submitted and a copy retained on premises. The affidavit shall attest to the following regarding flame propagation criteria.

1. Names and address of the owner of the tent
2. Date the fabric was last treated with flame retardant solution.
3. Trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment
4. Name of person or firm treating the material
5. Name of test agency and standard to which the fabric was tested.

Combustible materials. Hay, straw, shavings, or similar combustible materials are prohibited unless for feeding animals. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under stands or seats at any time.

Smoking. Smoking shall not be permitted and approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted in accordance with the fire code official.

Exit signs. At each exit. 6" high and 2" wide lettering. Exit signs shall have two separate circuits, one of which shall be separate from all circuits for all occupant loads less than 300. Additional requirements apply if occupancy is in excess of 300.

Open Flame. Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20' of the tent unless approved by fire code official.

Fireworks. Shall not be used within 100' of tents.

Spotlighting. Spot or effect lighting shall only be by electricity, and all combustible construction located within 6' shall be protected by approved noncombustible insulation not less than 9 1/4".

Clearance. Minimum clearance of 3' between the fabric side and all contents within the tent.

Portable extinguishers. Employees and staff must be trained in using extinguishers. Placement will be through the fire code official using IFC 2015 for a guide.

Occupant Load. Will be treated the same as a permanent structure

Heating and cooking equipment. Is only allowed with the inspection and approval of the fire code official. Proper installation requirements are contained in the International Fuel Gas Code and International Mechanical Code. The proper installation is the owner, agent, or lessee responsibility which also includes venting. Special attention will be made to cooking operations using charcoal or other solid fuel, as they have the potential for sparks or flying embers. Grease or smoke producing cooking

appliances will receive a review as to what is best to mitigate them in a manner acceptable to all parties concerned while maintain public safety. Fire code official will always put the public safety first.

Patio, torpedo and kerosene (liquid fuel) heaters are not allowed inside of a tent. A forced air heater where the heating device is located a minimum of 10 feet from the tent and the air is forced via a duct system into the tent can be used if approved by the fire code official, as long as the fuel source is secured 20 feet from the tent. A Carbon Monoxide detector must be present.

Location. Cooking/ heating equipment shall not be located within 10' of exits or combustibles.

Operations. Warming of foods, cooking demos, or similar operations that use solid flammables, butane, or other similar device which do not impose an ignition hazard shall be approved.

Cooking tents. Shall be separated from other tents by a minimum of 20'.

Outdoor cooking. Outdoor cooking that produces spark or grease laden vapors shall be separated by a minimum of 20' from tents.

LP Gas. Shall be located outside. The safety release valve should be pointed away from the tent. It shall be a minimum of 10' away from the container and tent. They shall be protected from tampering. All piping, hose, fittings, valves, tubing, and other related items shall be installed according to the International Fuel Gas Code.

Flammable/combustible liquid. Shall be stored in an approved manner not less than 50' from the tent. Flammable liquid fueled equipment shall not be allowed in tents. Refueling shall be in an approved location not less than 20' from the tent. Spills shall be cleaned up immediately.

Generators. Shall be separated from tents at least 20'. They shall be isolated from the public.

Standby personnel. Owner, agent, lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required and approved, if in the opinion of the fire code official it is essential for public safety.

Crowd Managers. Approved trained crowd managers at a ratio of one for every 250 occupants.

Vegetation. Combustible vegetation shall be removed 30' from the tent.

Waste. Combustible waste shall be kept free of the floor and grounds 30' from the tent. Waste shall be stored in approved containers and removed frequently.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Clinton Township Fire Prevention Division at 586-263-8437.

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