

# NOBLESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



## CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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## Tents and Canopies

*Tents* over 200 square feet and *canopies* (a tent with at least 75% of the sides open) over 400 square feet are regulated by the 2008 Indiana Fire Code, Chapter 24. Although not typically a significant fire hazard, they are subject to a different set of hazards, including severe weather conditions, exiting issues, and unusual electrical hazards.

### Prior to setup:

- Contact the Noblesville Planning Department (317-776-6325) for a temporary use permit.
- Ensure that 811 has been contacted to locate utilities at least 2 working days prior to setup of the tent or canopy.
- Provide to the Noblesville Fire Department Code Enforcement Division the following documents:
  - A detailed site and floor plan indicating the location of the tent or canopy in relation to buildings and other structures, seating arrangement, means of egress, location and type of heating, electrical, and stage equipment, if applicable. (InFC 2403.6)
  - Documentation of structural stability. (InFC 2403.9)
  - Certification that the tent or canopy and all sidewalls, floor coverings, and decorative materials are NFPA 701 compliant. (InFC 2404.2)

### Setup Considerations:

- Tents and canopies must be located at least 20 feet from lot lines, buildings, other tents or canopies, parked vehicles, or internal combustion engines, including generators. Several exceptions may apply that can eliminate this requirement – please contact this office for details. (InFC 2403.8.2)
- Means of egress (InFC 2403.12)
  - Exits located such that all points in the tent or canopy are 100 feet or less from an exit.
  - Exits open unless covered by a contrasting color curtain on a free sliding metal support.
  - Exits marked with illuminated exit signs.
  - Means of egress illuminated at least 1 foot-candle at floor level at all times the structure is occupied.
  - Guy wires and support ropes may not cross egress path at less than 8 feet.
  - Surface of means of egress maintained in an approved manner.
- Areas within the structure and within 20 feet are maintained clear of combustible materials or vegetation that could create a fire hazard. Combustible trash is removed at least once per day. (InFC 2404.5)
- “No Smoking” signs are posted. (InFC 2404.6)
- Fireworks shall not be used within 100 feet of a tent or canopy. (InFC 2404.8)
- Fire extinguishers are provided throughout the tent or canopy. (InFC 2404.12)
- Following setup, submit an inspection report to this office consisting of maintenance, anchors, and fabric inspections. (InFC 2403.7.1)
- LP gas containers must be less than 500 gallons, and located at least 10 feet from the tent or canopy. (InFC 2404.16.2.1) Flammable and combustible liquids must be stored at least 50 feet away from the tent or canopy. (InFC 2404.17)
- Cooking and heating equipment must be located at least 10 feet from exits and combustible materials. (InFC 2404.15.3)

Disclaimer: This may not be a complete list of all code sections involving this subject, and is not the actual code that regulates this subject. Please reference the adopted codes in the state of Indiana (<http://www.in.gov/dhs/2490.htm>) for complete information.