

Fire Safety Requirements for Public Events

Permits

- Health, Building, Electrical, Fire Prevention, or other permits, licenses, or inspections must be displayed in a conspicuous location.
- A permit must be obtained from the *fire code official*, for all tents with an area of 400 square feet or more.

Compressed Gas Cylinders

- All compressed gas cylinders, in use or in storage, must be adequately secured as approved by the Fire Marshal to prevent them from falling over.
- Each compressed gas cylinder must be clearly identified with the name of the gas contained.

Electrical

- All wiring must comply with the National Electrical Code and is subject to approval by the Electrical Inspector.
- The use of lightweight electrical extension cords is prohibited. Only U.L.-listed circuit breaker protected extension cords, or extension cords using 14-3 or larger wire, can be used.
- Any electrical cord which runs through areas exposed to pedestrian traffic must be secured in place and protected as required by bridging.
- All weather-exposed wiring, connections, and junction boxes must be waterproof.

Temporary Structures

- 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 feet of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the *fire code official*.
- Generators shall be separated from tents by a minimum of 20 feet.
- Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of a tent or membrane structure unless approved by the *fire code official*.
- Tents and awnings must be adequately supported in accordance with the provisions as set forth in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and NFPA 102.

Cooking Fuels and Equipment

- All liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cooking equipment must be inspected by the Fire Marshal prior to use.
- LP-gas containers shall be outside with the safety release valves pointed away from the tent or membrane structure.
- All spare LPG bottles must be stored as approved in a secure location as remote as practical from cooking devices and warming trays. Spare bottles shall be limited to two per appliance or as approved by the Fire Marshal.
- Operations such as warming of foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations that use solid flammables, butane or other similar devices which do not pose an ignition hazard, shall be approved.
- All Hoses and equipment must be free of defects and of the type recommended for use with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).
- LP-gas equipment such as tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be approved in accordance with Chapter 61 of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and with the International Fuel Gas Code.

Charcoal

- When using charcoal and/or wood, a metal container with a tight fitting lid for the disposal of ashes is required.
- Ashes shall be wet down with water before leaving them unattended or discarding.

Cooking Devices

- Cooking devices must be isolated from the public by at least four feet or have an approved barrier.
- Warming and cooking devices must be placed on a noncombustible surface and kept at a minimum of two feet from each other and any combustible materials.
- Cooking equipment using sterno or other similar combustible oils or solids must have proper fitting lids available for immediate use.
- All use of open flame and/or flammable liquids or gases must include a dry chemical extinguisher that is readily available. The extinguisher must have a minimum rating of no less than 2A-20BC, or as approved by the Fire Marshal.

Fireworks

- Fireworks or unauthorized open flames are prohibited unless approved by the Fire Marshal.