

Brandon Fire and Emergency Services



Tents and Canopies Requirements Policy – Schedule “P24”

The following Policy is in accordance with the City of Brandon’s Fire Prevention By-Law #7200

This policy has been developed by the Brandon Fire and Emergency Services to summarize the fire and life safety regulations relating to temporary structures classified as tents and canopies.

Definitions:

Tent - A temporary structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable material supported in any manner except by air or the contents it protects.

Canopy - A temporary structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents it protects without sidewalls or drops on 75% or more of the perimeter.

Fire Code Regulations:

- ❑ A tent may not be erected on any site for more than 180 days in any 12-month period.
- ❑ All tent fabric and interior decorative fabric used in tents or canopies is required to be flame retardant and labeled as such. Any saw dust, shavings, straw or other combustible material used on the floor of such tents must also be made flame resistant. A Certificate of Flame Resistance or other documentation affirming compliance with this requirement must be submitted.

Location Requirements:

- ❑ Tents and canopies must be separated from each other, property lines, other structures and Vehicles, by a minimum clear width of 6 m (20 ft) or by the required exit width, which ever is greater. For purposes of required distances, support ropes and guy wires are considered part of the tent.
- ❑ Fire apparatus roadways shall be 6m (20 ft) wide with 5 m (16’ 4”) vertical clearance capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus.

Exiting Requirements:

- ❑ Exits from tents and canopies shall comply with the following table.

Occupant Load	Minimum Exits	Minimum Width of each Means of Egress (Inches)
10 – 199	2	72
200 – 499	3	72
500 – 999	4	96

- ❑ Tents or canopies having an occupant load of 200 or more must be provided with exit signs and exit directional signs. If the occupant load is more than 300, the exit signs must be internally illuminated or of an approved self-luminous type. Internally illuminated signs must be supplied with power from two separate circuits, one of which shall serve no other purpose. If the occupant load exceeds 500, the exit signs shall be provided with an approved emergency power system such as back-up batteries or an automatic emergency generator.
- ❑ Tents or canopies having an occupant load of 200 or more that is occupied after sun down shall be provided with Rechargeable battery backup Emergency Lighting.
- ❑ Aisles with a minimum width of 1100 mm (44") shall be provided for access to all exits. All portions of the interior of the tent or canopy shall be within 9.1m (30 ft) of an aisle.

House Keeping and General Fire Safety Requirements:

- ❑ Flammable and combustible liquids and LP-gas shall not be stored in or within 15.2 m (50 ft) of tents and canopies.
- ❑ All weeds, combustible vegetation, trash and combustible storage shall be removed from areas adjacent to and within 9.14m (30 ft) of tents and canopies. Floor surfaces inside and within 9.14m (30 ft) of canopies shall be kept free and clear of combustible waste.
- ❑ Fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 2A-10BC shall be provided as follows: one extinguisher for tents and canopies up to 46 m² (500 ft²) in floor area; two extinguishers for 46.5 m² to 92.9 m² (501 to 1,000 ft²) and one extinguisher for each additional 185 m² (2,000 ft²) of floor area or fraction thereof.
- ❑ Smoking is prohibited in tents and canopies. Approved NO SMOKING signs shall be posted. The use of open flame devices such as candles is prohibited in tents and canopies.
- ❑ Brandon Fire and Emergency Services strictly regulates cooking and heating equipment. Contact the Fire Prevention Division (204) 729-2409 for requirements.