



TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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To: All Tent Contractors

Effective Date: 6/15/2018

From: Toledo Fire Prevention Bureau

Subject: Bureau Policy for Separation Distances Between Tents and Buildings

Introduction:

Occasionally we receive applications for erecting temporary or permanent tents at schools, churches, festivals or commercial establishments. This policy is generated to give a general guideline for the tent approval procedures and documentation.

2017 Ohio Fire Code

3103.8.2 Location. Tents or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of lot lines, buildings, other tents or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure or tent.

Exceptions:

1. Separation distance between membrane structures and tents not used for cooking is not required where the aggregate floor area does not exceed 15,000 square feet (1394 m²).
2. Membrane structures or tents need not be separated from buildings when all of the following conditions are met:
 - 2.1 The aggregate floor area of the membrane structure or tent shall not exceed 10,000 square feet (929 m²).
 - 2.2 The aggregate floor area of the building and membrane structure or tent shall not exceed the allowable floor area including increases as indicated in the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-80 of the Administrative Code.
 - 2.3 Required means of egress are provided for both the building and the membrane structure or tent including travel distances.
 - 2.4 Fire apparatus access roads are provided in accordance with paragraph (C)(503) of rule 1301:7-7-05 of the Administrative Code.

Reductions to required separation distances between tents and buildings may be considered by the Authority Having Jurisdiction in the City of Toledo when all the following conditions are met:

1. The building(s) adjacent to the proposed tent is of non-combustible construction as defined in the OBC.
2. The building(s) adjacent to the tent is fully sprinklered.
3. Means of egress and building area limits for both the building and the tent(s) has been shown to be compliant by engineering analysis performed by an Ohio licensed design professional.
4. Tent(s) installed next to a building(s) at less than the required separation distance are not permitted to be used as cooking tents.

Each application will be evaluated based on actual conditions and placement. There is no guarantee that adjustments will be granted.


Deputy Chief Orlando Gonzalez
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