



Providence Fire Department

Fire Prevention Division

Public Safety Complex | 325 Washington Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-243-6050 ph | 401-243-6487 fax

www.providenceri.gov



FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR TENTS AND IGLOOS

The Rhode Island Fire Safety Code contains specific regulations for tents, which includes dining or garden igloos. Tents, because of their inherent design, contain unique fire safety hazards compared to ordinary buildings. The Providence Fire Department would like to extend an offer to support your event during which a tent will be used to ensure a safe, enjoyable time for everyone.

COVID-19 Note: The use of tent sides is permitted by the Fire Safety Code, see below regarding exits. The Rhode Island Department of Health may have restrictions in place, please contact them to ensure your continued compliance.

Structure

1. Tent fabric/cover must comply with the flame propagation performance criteria in NFPA 701 Test Method 2. Please be advised that NFPA 701 Test Method 1 is a different test and is not acceptable for compliance. If you are purchasing a tent or igloo, obtain a certificate from the manufacturer documenting this test.
2. Tents larger than 350 square feet require a permit and will be inspected by the Providence Fire Department. A copy of the tent permit application is attached.
3. Applications for tents that will contain multiple tables or rows of seats must be accompanied by a floorplan showing seating arrangement, aisles, and exits.
4. Exits must be obvious or marked with an approved sign.
5. Smoking, candles, cooking, and any other sources of open flame are prohibited inside of tents.
6. A fire extinguisher must be located inside every tent.
7. Hay, straw or other similar combustibles may not be used to furnish the tent unless it has been treated by a fire retardant and a sample tested by this office.
8. Consult the manufacturer's instructions for properly securing tents against high winds and use during periods of rain, snow, or ice.

Utilities

1. Heaters (both electric and fuel-fired) used in tents must have a label, symbol, or identifying mark from a recognized product testing organization. These marks include, but are not limited to, UL, FM, CSA, or ETL.
2. Cords to electric heaters must be rated for outdoor use and of sufficient size to handle the load. Cords must be secured to prevent trip hazards.
3. Propane tanks used for fuel-fired heaters must be kept 5ft away from the tent. The tank must be restrained from tipping over and protected from vehicles.



Providence Fire Department

Fire Prevention Division

Public Safety Complex | 325 Washington Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-243-6050 ph | 401-243-6487 fax

www.providenceri.gov




4. Permanent connection to any building utilities, such as electric or gas, must be approved by the Department of Inspection and Standards.

Special Cases

1. Air supported (where a blower is needed to maintain the shape of the structure) and tensioned-membrane structures require additional compliance measures due to their means of support. Please contact this office for guidance.
2. Tents and igloos that are to be erected within or on top of buildings require additional safeguards. Please contact this office for guidance.

The Fire Prevention Division of the Providence Fire Department is here to assist to ensure your event runs safety and smoothly. Please do not hesitate to contact this office for guidance on any fire code related matters.


Andrew Went
Fire Prevention Captain
Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal
Rev. 10/2020

**Providence Fire
Prevention**

325 Washington Street
Providence, RI 02903
Office: (401) 243-6050
Fax: (401) 243-6486



**Plan Intake
Office**

444 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
Office: (401) 680-5512
Fax: (401) 680-5454

Providence Fire Department

Providence Fire Prevention Bureau Tent Permit Application

Must be completed for all tents larger than 350 square feet. Submit to Dept. of Inspections & Standards before tent set up. Final approval is subject to on-site inspection.

Name of Event _____
 Location _____
 Event Organizer _____
 Date(s) Set Up _____ Removal Date _____
 Date(s) of Event _____
 Expected Attendance _____
 Tent Vendor Name _____
 Contact Person/Phone _____

Tents shall not cover more than 75% of premises. There shall be a minimum of 10ft between stake lines. Means of egress must be maintained from tent at all times. Smoking shall not be permitted in any tent. Portable fire extinguishers shall be furnished. Containers for LPG shall be installed not less than 60 in. from any tent. Generators must be at least 5 feet from tent. Electrical cords must be protected for foot traffic. Exit signs must be present and illuminated if applicable. A firefighter detail may be required. Aisles must be 3 feet wide. Cooking not allowed in tent. Permit valid not more than 30 days. Monitor weather conditions. Have an evacuation plan. Evacuate tent during high winds and lighting. Applicant's initials _____.

Tent Information

Tent Dimensions _____ Number of Exits _____
 Flame Certificates or Affidavit of Flame Resistance Attached. Yes _____ No _____
 Floor plan or seating diagram attached. Yes _____ No _____
 Water Barrel Tied to stationary objects Staked. If other Please Describe _____

Name of Applicant _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Signature of Applicant _____

Fee of \$100 per tent payable by company check, money order or certified bank check payable to "Providence City Collector" due at time of application for tent permit. Include location of tent and date of event in memo line on check. All paperwork and check must be submitted in person to Providence Fire Prevention Plan Intake office, 444 Westminster Street, 1st Floor. 680-5512.

Office Use Only		
Tent Plan Layout Approved by FPB Plan Reviewer		
_____	Number of tents # _____	_____
Print Name		Date
_____	Check # _____	Plan # _____
Signature		