



CITY of STURGEON BAY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Fire Chief

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Some businesses are unaware of the State Code in regards to the use of tents for roadside/farm markets, special events such as weddings, class reunions, fund raisers, fishing tournaments, etc.

Below are the requirements per NFPA 1 Chapter 25.

1. All tents and layouts of multiple tents must be inspected and approved by the Fire Department prior to your event and use.
2. Tents shall be permitted only on a temporary basis. Tents are to remain in place for a period of 180 consecutive days or less. All tents must comply with NFPA 1 Chapter 25, NFPA 101 Life Safety.
3. Vehicles used in connection with the event shall not be parked within 20' of the tent, i.e. DJ, Caterer or beer distributor. All other vehicles shall not be parked within 50' of the tent unless the parking is separated by a barrier such as a curb.
4. Tents shall not be located any closer than 20' to a building.
5. Neither open flame heat nor cooking is allowed, where open to the public. Anything other than electric heat must be located outside of the tent and the heat ducted into the tent. The open flame food warmers are allowed to keep the serving dishes warm. AHJ (authority having jurisdiction) has authority to require a Class K extinguisher if the fuel load and location to the tent could be a hazard.

Cooking under a tent is allowed so long as the public is not allowed in the tent.

Cooking operations shall comply with NFPA 1 Chapter 50 unless granted an exception.

- (1) AHJ, Fire Chief or designee only will make an exception if the following requirements are met.
 - (2) ABC fire extinguisher is present; Class K fire extinguisher is present
 - (3) Fuel must be located 10ft away from the tent and secured to prevent tip over.
 - (4) 10 ft clearance around the tent is provided.
 - (5) Area around fuel and open area is fenced to keep public out.
6. The tent must be tagged as Flame resistant or a certificate must be present.
 7. No smoking signs must be posted.
 8. Fire Extinguishers of approved types shall be furnished and maintained in such quantity and locations as determined by the AHJ. All tents over 400sq ft, or multiple tents arranged to cover over 400 sqft are required to have extinguishers.
 9. If the tent is used after dark there must be illuminated exit signs.
 10. Exit signs are required during the day time if the tent has three or more sides.
 11. Spacing shall be 10' unless not occupied by the public or exception is given by the AHJ.
 12. Means of egress must be open at all times.
 13. Tent stakes must be railed off, capped, or covered so as not to present a hazard to the public.
 14. Sturgeon Bay Fire Department will not provide extinguishers.
 15. It is your responsibility to call the Fire Department @ 920-746-2916 for an inspection prior to the event.

Fire Chief Tim Dietman
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