



# ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Fire Prevention Office

1020 N. Hudson St., Arlington, VA 22201

TEL 703.228.4644

Email [Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Fire-Firecodeinquiry@arlingtonva.us)

FAX 703.228.7097

[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)

### **Conditions of Code Modification for Temporary Tents or Other Membrane Structures**

- Eligible tents must have been approved through the TOSA process
  - TOSA approval documents must accompany this application
- All tents must conform and comply with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 31, Tents and Other Membrane Structures. The Fire Prevention Office will review and inspect each application/location prior to approval
  - Greater than 120 square feet
  - Less than 900 square feet
  - Less than 50 occupants
  - No cooking is allowed under tents or membrane structures
  - Regular inspections of the entire tent at regular intervals by a licensed 3<sup>rd</sup> party
    - Maintain and produce inspection reports upon request of the Fire Code Official
  - Not erected on buildings, balconies, or other structures
  - Multiple tents separated by less than 12 feet at any point shall not exceed 900 square feet
  - Tents shall be anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing
  - Certificate of flame propagation performance testing or treatment
    - An affidavit or affirmation shall be submitted, and a copy retained on premises on which the tent or air-supported structure is located
    - The affidavit shall attest to all the following information relative to the flame propagation performance criteria of the fabric:
      - Names and address of the owners of the tent or air-supported structure
      - Date the fabric was last treated with flame-retardant solution
      - Trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment
      - Name of person or firm treating the material
      - Name of testing agency and test standard by which the fabric was tested
      - This certificate shall be filed with the Fire Prevention Office prior to approval
    - Combustible materials such as hay, straw or saw dust are prohibited in the tent
    - Smoking is prohibited under tents and shall be posted
    - Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances regardless of condition (on, off, with cylinder, without cylinder, etc.) may not be used, stored, or otherwise located under the tent
      - Failure to comply shall result in revoking the Fire Code Modification and removal of the tent
  - Portable open flame heating devices must be at least 5 feet from the tent
    - A notice of violation will be issued if the distance is not maintained
    - Repeated violations will result in review of the tent approval and possible revocation of the code modification
    - The evacuation of all occupants, by the Fire Prevention Office, from the tent for unsafe conditions, will result if propane or other noncompliant heaters are found violating the fire code.
- Approved Fire Code Modification Tents will be removed within 48 hours of the application expiration date.

### *MISSION*

*We serve the community with compassion, integrity and commitment through prevention, education and a professional response to all hazards.*