



GRAND HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

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Tent Information

The following information regarding the use of tents within the City of Grand Haven has been excerpted from The Fire Code of the City of Grand Haven which has been adopted by reference from the 2015 International Fire Code.

This information is intended to assist individuals or organizations who intend to erect or use tents within the City. The complete code is available for viewing on the City of Grand Haven's website, grandhaven.org, under Codes and Ordinances.

3103.6 Construction documents. A site plan drawing and floor plan drawing are required. (Show exits, seating arrangements, extinguisher location, placement of tent in relation to other tents or structures, etc.)

3103.8 Access, location and parking

- 3103.8.1 Access. Fire apparatus access is required
- 3103.8.2 Location. Tents shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, other tents, 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 tent.

TABLE 3103.12.2 MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEANS OF EGRESS AND MEANS OF EGRESS WIDTH

<u>OCCUPANT LOAD</u>	<u>MIN. # OF MEANS OF EGRESS</u>	<u>MIN. WIDTH OF MEANS OF EGRESS</u>
10-199	2	72"
200-499	3	72"
500-999	4	96"
1000-1999	5	120"
2000-2999	6	120"
OVER 3000	7	120"

3103.12.3 Exit openings from tents. Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame-resistant curtain. The curtain shall comply with the following requirements: 1. Curtains shall be free sliding on a metal support. The support shall be a minimum of 80 inches above the floor level at the exit. The curtains shall be so arranged that, when open, no part of the curtain obstructs the exit. 2. Curtains shall be of a color, or colors, that contrasts with the color of the tent.

3103.12.5 Aisle. 24” minimum for employees. 44” minimum for public.

3103.12.6 Exit signs. Exits shall be clearly marked. Exit signs shall be installed at required exit doorways and where otherwise necessary to indicate clearly the direction of egress when the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more.

3103.12.6.1 Exit sign illumination. Illumination required.

3104.3 Label. Tents shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the identification of fabric or material type.

3104.4 Certification. Proof of the fabric or material’s treatment with a fire retardant chemical, date of last treatment, and name of fire retardant is required.

3104.5 Combustible materials. Combustible materials are not allowed in the tent.

3104.6 Smoking. Smoking within the tent is not allowed and “No Smoking” signs must be posted.

3104.7 Open or exposed flame. Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official.

3104.8 Fireworks. Fireworks shall not be used within 100 feet of tents.

3104.11 Clearance. There shall be a minimum clearance of at least 3 feet between the fabric and all contents.

3104.12 Portable fire extinguishers. Generally - Table 906.3(1) – (One or two 5lb ABC extinguishers generally meet this requirement) One extinguisher required for every 1500 sq. ft., and the travel distance to the extinguisher not to exceed 75 ft. from any point in the tent, or 30 ft. from commercial cooking equipment.

3104.15 Heating and cooking equipment. Heating and cooking equipment shall be in accordance with Sections 3104.15.1 through 3104.15.7.

- 3104.15.1 Installation. Heating or cooking equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be installed as specified in the International Mechanical Code and the International Fuel Gas Code, and shall be approved by the fire code official
- 3104.15.2 Venting. Gas, liquid and solid fuel-burning equipment designed to be vented shall be vented to the outside air as specified in the International Fuel Gas Code and the International Mechanical Code. Such vents shall be equipped with approved spark arresters when required. Where vents or flues are used, all portions of the tent or membrane structure shall be not less than 12 inches from the flue or vent.
- 3104.15.3 Location. Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials.

- 3104.15.4 Operations. Operations such as warming of foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations that use solid flammables, butane or other similar devices which do not pose an ignition hazard, shall be approved
- 3104.15.5 Cooking tents. Tents with sidewalls or drops where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet.
- 3104.15.6 Outdoor cooking. Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of a tent or membrane structure
- 3104.15.7 Electrical heating and cooking equipment. Electrical cooking and heating equipment shall comply with NFPA 70.

3104.16 LP-gas. The storage, handling and use of LP-gas and LP-gas equipment shall be in accordance with Sections 3104.16.1 through 3104.16.3.

- 3104.16.2 Location of containers. LP-gas containers shall be located outside. Safety release valves shall be pointed away from the tent or membrane structure.
- 3104.16.2.1 Containers 500 gallons or less. Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of 500 gallons or less shall have a minimum separation between the container and structure not less than 10 feet.
- 3104.16.3 Protection and security. Portable LP-gas containers, piping, valves and fittings which are located outside and are being used to fuel equipment inside a tent or membrane structure shall be adequately protected to prevent tampering, damage by vehicles or other hazards and shall be located in an approved location. Portable LP-gas containers shall be securely fastened in place to prevent unauthorized movement.

3104.17 Flammable and combustible liquids. The storage of flammable and combustible liquids and the use of flammable-liquid-fueled equipment shall be in accordance with Sections 3104.17.1 through 3104.17.3.

- 3104.17.1 Use. Flammable-liquid-fueled equipment shall not be used in tents.
- 3104.17.2 Flammable and combustible liquid storage. Flammable and combustible liquids shall be stored outside in an approved manner not less than 50 feet from tents.

3104.19 Separation of generators. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.

3104.22 Combustible waste material. The floor surface inside tents and the grounds outside and within a 30-foot perimeter shall be kept free of combustible waste and other combustible materials that could create a fire hazard. Such waste shall be stored in approved containers and removed from the premises at least once a day during the period the structure is occupied by the public.