



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES
Fire Marshals Office (203) 341-5020
Fax (203) 341-5009
Nathaniel Gibbons, Fire Marshal

Tents & Inspections

Tents are regulated by Town Zoning, the Building Official and the Fire Marshal's Office. Please refer to the Zoning Regulations 32-23 which addresses their requirements for tents at outdoor events.

Building Code (SBC Sec. 3103.5)

A **building permit** is required for tents/membrane structures larger than 400 sf with side flaps.

A **building permit** is required for tents/membrane structures (single or aggregate) larger than 700 sf with all sides open.

Exceptions:

- 1) Recreational camping tents
- 2) Tents less than 900 sf occupied by less than 50 people with no heating, cooking or electrical service and are erected for less than 72 hours.

A **building permit** is required for all tents that use temporary electrical power from a generator and/or use fuel gas for any purpose (cooking, heating).

Wind Loading: Permitted tents shall meet the wind design parameters of SBC Appendix N (101mph) with documentation stamped by a CT licensed engineer or shall provide completed ballast calculation sheet and emergency evacuation plans at the time of application.

Inspections: All tents erected under a building permit shall be inspected prior to occupancy by the public.

Required Fire Inspections

Any tent using temporary electrical service (extension cords/generator)

Any tent using heating or cooking appliances (propane, natural gas, electric)

Any tent using a portable generator regardless of its size.

Any tent occupied by 50 or more people (assembly use):

20 x 20' or larger for chairs only/ standing room only

30 x 30' or larger for tables & chairs