



Watch Hill Fire Department

Tent Application

- Tents shall not cover more than 75% of the premises.
- There shall be a minimum of 10 feet between stake lines.
- Means of egress must be maintained at all times and remain clear.
- Smoking in the tent is not permitted. No smoking signs must be displayed and announcements made. A uniformed attendant shall be required to monitor the no smoking policy. Vaping included.
- No pyrotechnic devices shall be used unless permitted by the State fire marshal's office.
- Candles shall not be used unless they are in substantial noncombustible bases with flame protection.
- Sky lanterns (Chinese lanterns) are strictly prohibited per RI Law.
- Portable fire extinguishers shall be clearly accessible and visible.
- LPG tanks shall not be installed within 5 feet from any tent.
- Generators shall be no less than 5 feet from every tent and protected.
- All electrical cords shall not present a trip hazard.
- All exit signs shall be present and illuminated if required.
- Aisle widths of 3 feet must be maintained at all times.
- No cooking shall occur under a tent.
- Combustible vegetation shall be clear from the tent up to 10 feet, any vegetation inside the tent must be treated with a flame-retardant treatment to the satisfaction of the Fire Marshal or Chief of department.
- Event planner shall monitor weather events and have an evacuation plan in place in case of high winds or lightning.
- The Fire Chief or the Fire Marshal of the Watch Hill fire department may require a firefighter detail for any or all events under a tent.



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Code Reference Guide for Tents

Chapter 25 of NFPA 1 (2018) & RIGL 28.19

25.1.5 Fire Hazards

25.1.5.1 – The finished ground level enclosed by the structure, and the surrounding finished ground level not less than 10ft outside the structure shall be cleared of all flammable or combustible materials and vegetation.

25.1.5.2 - Where prohibited by the AHJ, smoking shall not be permitted in any temporary membrane structures

25.1.5.3 – Hay, Straw, Shavings or similar combustible materials that have not been treated to make them flame retardant to a degree acceptable to the AHJ shall not be permitted within a structure used as an assembly occupancy.

25.1.5.4/20.1.5.3 – Open Flame devices & Pyrotechnics. No open flame devices or pyrotechnic devices shall be used in any assembly occupancy, unless otherwise permitted by the following.

(1) Pyrotechnic special effect devices shall be permitted to be used on stage before proximate audience for ceremonial or religious purposes, as part of a demonstration in exhibits, or as part of a performance, provided that both of the following criteria are met:

A- Precautions satisfactory to the AHJ are taken to prevent ignition of any combustible material

B- Use of pyrotechnic device complies with NFPA 1126

(2) Flame effects before an audience shall be permitted in accordance with NFPA 160

(3) Open flame devices shall be permitted to be used in the following situations, provided that precautions satisfactory to the AHJ are taken to prevent ignition of any combustible material or injury to occupants:

A- For ceremonial or religious purposes

B- On stage platforms where part of a performance

C- Where Candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and candle flame is protected.

(4) The requirements of 25.1.5.4 shall not apply to heat producing equipment complying with 11.2.2

(5) The requirements of 35.1.5.4 shall not apply to food service operations in accordance with 12.7.2 of NFPA 101.

(6) Gas lights shall be permitted to be used, provided that precautions are taken, subject to the approval of the AHJ, to prevent ignition of any combustible materials.



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Chapter 25 of NFPA 1 (2018) & RIGL 28.19

25.2 Tents

25.2.2 Flame propagation performance

25.2.2.1- All tent fabric shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria contained in NFPA 701

25.2.2.2 – One of the following shall serve as evidence that the tent fabric materials have the required flame propagation performance:

(1) The AHJ shall require a certificate or other evidence of acceptance by an organization acceptable to the AHJ.

(2) The AHJ shall require a report of test made by other inspection authorities or organization acceptable to the AHJ.

25.2.3 Location and spacing.

25.2.3.1 – There shall be a minimum of 10ft between stake lines.

RI Chapter 28.19 (2013GL) 23-28.19-11 Smoking Regulations – Signs prohibiting smoking shall be prominently displayed at all entrances and at other locations within the tent used as a place of assembly, so that they may be clearly visible to all occupants. Frequent announcements regarding the prohibition shall be made, preferably over a public address system if available. Suitable non-combustible containers shall be provided at all entrances for the proper disposition of cigar or cigarette butts and pipe dottle, and a uniformed attendant shall be stationed at the location to advise patrons of the no smoking regulation.