

Halifax County Inspections
15 West Pittsylvania Street ~ PO Box 69
Halifax, North Carolina 27839
Phone 252-583-4891 ~ Fax 252-583-2735

Fire Code Requirements for Fairs, Carnivals and Festivals

For Fairs, Carnivals or Festivals conducted in Halifax County by any City, Town, Municipality, individual or group (Profit or Non-profit), an Operational Permit is mandatory from the Halifax County Fire Marshal. The Operational Permit must be obtained from the County Fire Marshal prior to the event. The local governing body, individual or group requesting the permit must provide a site plan. Upon review and approval of the plan, the Fire Marshal will issue the required permit(s). In addition to the Operational Permit there must be an additional permit for each tent that is over 200 square feet and/or every canopy that is over 400 square feet. The onsite coordinator for the event must have, at all times, all permits on hand for the duration of the event.

Emergency vehicles (Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement) shall be shown on the site plan and shall have access to the entire site for the duration of the event.

Tents, canopies and air-supported structures shall be adequately anchored to withstand elements of weather and to prevent against collapsing. All tents, canopies and air-supported structures shall be of a flame resistant material or shall be treated with a flame retardant in accordance with NFPA 701. This applies to tents over 200 square feet and canopies over 400 square feet. Proof of a flame retardant shall be provided either by a label or a certificate. Tents connected together will be treated as one tent and must meet the same requirements.

Smoking shall be prohibited in tents, enclosed canopies and air-supported structures. Approved **“NO SMOKING”** signs shall be conspicuously posted in each structure or location.

Tents, where cooking is performed under the tent, shall be separated from other tents, air-supported structures and canopies by a minimum of 20 feet. Outdoor (open air) cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet from a tent, air-supported structure or canopy. Cooking equipment involving any amount of vegetable or animal oils or fats that produce grease-laden vapors or smoke shall have a “Class K” rated fire extinguisher **OR** a 3A-40BC Dry Chemical Fire Extinguisher within 30 feet of cooking equipment. All fire extinguishers being used shall have a current service certification tag on the extinguisher. All gas connections shall be checked for leaks by using a soap and water mixture.

Fireworks shall not be within 100 feet of tents, canopies or air-supported structures.

Additional requirements must be met for a fireworks/ pyrotechnics display

Generators shall be separated from tents, canopies and air-supported structures by a minimum of 30 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the general public by fencing or other approved enclosure.

Upon completion of set-up, the Fire Marshal shall inspect premises before **any** operations begin.

Should you have questions, please contact the Halifax County Fire Marshal at the number or address listed above.