



Corona Fire Department

Special Amusement Buildings and Haunted House Guideline per 2022 California Fire Code

PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards necessary to ensure that any special amusement building, haunted house or similar proposed event is in compliance with the applicable provisions of the 2022 California Fire and Building Codes.

SCOPE

This guideline applies to special amusement buildings, haunted houses and similar events. Amusement buildings having an occupant load of 50 or more shall be treated as a Group A (Assembly) occupancy; all others will be a Group B occupancy. The guideline shall also apply to tents and temporary structures used for amusement and/or haunted houses.

DEFINITIONS

Special Amusement Area (CFC 202)

A special amusement area is any temporary or permanent building or portion thereof that is occupied for amusement, entertainment or educational purposes and is arranged in a manner that: 1. Makes the means of egress path not readily apparent due to the visual and audio distractions, or 2. Intentionally confounds identification of the means of egress path, or 3. Otherwise makes the means of egress path not readily available because of the nature of the attractive or mode of conveyance through the special amusement area, building, structure or portion thereof.

REQUIREMENTS

A. Permits (CFC 105.5.3)

1. A permit is required from the fire department prior to the operation of any amusement building. Application for a permit should be made 30 days prior to the planned opening of the amusement building to ensure an adequate amount of time for plan reviews and field inspections.
2. The applicant is to provide the fire department with copies of the event site and/or floor plans. These plans shall identify the locations of exits, exit signage, power supply; whether temporary or permanent, locations of decorative materials required to be flame retardant, along with the necessary evidence of such. Please refer to the Special Event Fire Code Operational Permit Application Supporting Documents for more information.
3. The applicant is to contact the Fire Prevention Division at least 48 hours prior to the event to schedule an inspection. Any special requirements necessary for compliance with fire and life safety provisions will be listed on the permit. The permit fee is \$175 and includes the required inspection.

B. Fire Alarm Systems (CFC 907.2.12)

1. An approved automatic smoke detection system shall be provided in special amusement areas designed in accordance with CFC 907.2.12.
2. The activation of a single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system, or other automatic fire-detection device shall immediately activate an audible and visible alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated, including the capability of manual initiation of requirements.



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3. Upon activation the system shall automatically, or staff manually initiate all of the following:
 - a. Cause illumination of the means of egress.
 - b. Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions.
 - c. Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency.
 - d. Activate a prerecorded message, audible throughout the amusement area building instructing patrons to proceed to the nearest exit.
 - e. Alarm signals used in conjunction with the prerecorded message shall produce a sound that is distinctive from other sounds used during normal operation.
4. An emergency voice/alarm communication system, which is allowed to serve as a public address system, shall be installed in accordance with section 907.5.2.1 and be audible throughout the entire special amusement area and throughout the exit access to the point of exit discharge.
5. Use of smoke generating equipment may be restricted if determined to be incompatible with smoke alarms. Consideration shall be used with respect to smoke generator locations. Smoke generators and locations shall be approved by the fire department and testing is required during permit inspection.

C. Fire Sprinkler Systems (CFC 914.7)

1. Buildings containing special amusement areas shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with section 903.3.1.1.

Exception: Automatic sprinkler systems are not required where the total floor areas or a temporary special amusement area is less than 1,000 square feet and the exit access travel distance from any point in the special amusement area to an exit is less than 50 feet.
2. Where the special amusement building is temporary, less than 180 days, the sprinkler water supply system shall be of an approved temporary means.

D. Exiting (CFC Chapter 10)

1. Exiting requirements shall be in accordance with CFC Chapter 10 and must comply with all of the following:
 - a. Exits shall be provided no less than every 50 feet.
 - b. 2 exits shall be provided from each room with an occupant load of 50 or more persons.
 - c. Required exit doors shall swing in the direction of egress.
 - d. Exits and exit access doors shall be provided with illuminated exit signs. Where the path of egress is not readily visible, exit signs shall be provided to indicate the direction of egress travel.
 - e. Emergency lighting must be installed at each exit and exit access. Must have the ability to illuminate during an emergency either automatically by system or manually initiated.
 - f. Decorative materials and exhibits shall not obstruct, confuse, or obscure exits, exit pathways exit signs or emergency lighting.
2. Exit plans and evacuation maps shall be submitted with permit application and approved by fire department. Evacuation maps shall be reviewed with staff and posted throughout amusement area.



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E. Tents Used as Amusement Buildings (CFC Chapter 31)

1. All fire code requirements for tents shall apply. Please refer to Temporary Membrane Structure and Tents guideline. Please note that any amusement building held within a tent will also need a tent permit and additional fees will be assessed.
2. The design of the tent shall be approved and shall include features that prevent the accumulation of smoke. (CFC Chapter 31)
3. The maximum occupancy is limited to 49 people in the tent at any time to maintain the use as a Group B occupancy. The accumulative tent size cannot exceed 1,000 square feet. If square footage is exceeded, additional fire breaks are required between tents.
4. An approved fire watch shall be established and maintained throughout the event. The person or persons designated as fire watch shall be in two-way communication with a person stationed at a location where the systems and features of the amusement are manually controlled. Upon notification that a fire or other emergency condition exists, the operator shall place all systems and features in emergency mode.

F. Other Requirements

1. Combustible decorative material used in amusement buildings shall be composed of flame retardant materials or shall be treated with a flame retardant. Materials that cannot be made flame resistant shall not be used. (CFC Chapter 8).
2. The maximum occupant load in any Group A occupancy amusement building shall be determined by the fire code official and shall be posted in a conspicuous location.
3. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as determined by the fire inspector. The minimum rating shall not be less than 2A:10BC. The minimum travel distance to an extinguisher shall not exceed 75'. (CFC Section 906; Title 19 Chapter 3).
4. All electrical wiring, including the use of extension cords, shall be installed, and used in accordance with the California Electrical Code, its listing, and shall not exceed the maximum amperage for the wire size. (CFC Section 603).