



Germantown Fire Prevention Office
2700 Cross Country
901-751-7600

August 1, 2022

Festivals and Tents:

Pursuant of Chapter 31 of the 2021 International Fire Code and the City of Germantown Code of Ordinances the following shall apply:

1. Tents having an area in excess of 400 square feet shall have a minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents.
2. Tents not used for cooking, open on all sides, and placed side by side shall not have an aggregate area exceeding 15,000 square feet without a fire break clearance of 12 feet.
3. Tents, canopies, or membrane structures used for cooking shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, other tents, canopies or membrane structures, or parked vehicles. For the purpose of determining required distances support ropes and guide wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure, tent, or canopy.
4. Open flame or other devices (*including candles*) 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, canopy, or membrane structure while open to the public.
5. All tents, canopies, and membrane structures, and their appurtenances, sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins, floor covering, bunting, combustible decorative materials and effects shall be composed of flame-resistant material or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner and meet the requirements for flame resistance as determined in accordance with NFPA 701, and that such flame resistance is effective for the period specified by the permit.
6. Tents, canopies, or membrane structures shall have at least one exit and not less than the number of exits required by table shown below. The total width of means of egress in inches shall not be less than the total occupant load served by a means of egress multiplied by 0.2 inches per person.



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<u>Number</u>	<u>Minimum # of Exits</u>	<u>Minimum Width of ea. Exit</u>
10 – 199	2	72
200-499	2	72
500- 999	2	96

Note: Exit openings from tents shall remain open unless covered by a flame resistant curtain.

7. A label indicating the membrane structures, tents or canopies meet the flame propagation performance requirements of NFPA 701.
8. Hay, straw, shavings, or similar combustible materials shall not be located within any tent, canopy or membrane structure containing assembly occupancy.
9. Smoking shall not be permitted in tents, canopies or membrane structures.
10. At least one fire extinguisher with a minimum size being (2A10BC) shall be required for any tent in excess of 400 square feet. One fire extinguisher shall be provided for each additional 500 square feet.
11. Where deep fryers are used a Class K portable fire extinguisher shall be provided as follows:
 - a. For up to four fryers having a maximum cooking medium capacity of 80 pounds (36.3 kg) each: one Class K portable fire extinguisher of a minimum 1.5- gallon capacity. (A fryer capacity of 80 pounds can provide a surface area between 4.5 and 6 square feet).
 - b. For every additional group of for fryers having a maximum cooking medium capacity of 80 pounds each: one additional Class K portable fire extinguisher of a minimum 1.5 gallons
 - c. For individual fryers exceeding 6 square feet in surface area.
12. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall not be permitted.
13. No fireworks, open flame, or other device emitting open flame or fire shall be used in or immediately adjacent to any tent or air supported structure while open to the public.



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14. Diesel and gas fueled vehicles displayed in tents and membrane structures shall meet the following requirements:
- a. Have batteries disconnected
 - b. Fuel in the fuel tank shall not exceed 5 gallons
 - c. Shall not be fueled while parked under the tent, canopy, or membrane structure
 - d. Shall not obstruct exits or fire department access

If you have additional questions you may contact me at the phone number or email address provided.

Mobile food vendors need to add requirements

Respectfully,
Clint Starnes
Germantown Fire Marshal
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