



Corona Fire Department

Special Amusement Building and Haunted House Guideline Per 2016 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 2016 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

Amusement Building – An amusement building is defined as a building or portion thereof, temporary or permanent, used for entertainment or educational purposes and that contains a system that transports passengers or provides a walkway through a course so arranged that the means of egress are not apparent due to theatrical distractions, are disguised, or are not readily available due to the method of transportation through the building or structure.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Permits – 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. 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. 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 \$150 and includes the required inspection.

2. Fire Alarm Systems (CBC 411.3, 907.2.12; CFC 907.2.12, 914.7.2)

- a. An approved automatic fire detection system designed in accordance with CBC Section 907.
- b. The activation of a single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system, or other automatic fire-detection device shall immediately sound an alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated, including the capability of manual initiation of requirements in CFC 907.2.12.2.
- c. An emergency voice/alarm communication system shall be provided in accordance with CBC/CFC 907.2.12 and 907.5.2.2, which is also permitted to serve as a public address system and shall be audible throughout the entire special amusement building.

3. Fire Sprinkler Systems (CBC 411.4; CFC 914.7)

- a. An automatic sprinkler system meeting the requirements of CBC/CFC 903.3.1.1 shall be installed in all special amusement buildings except those where the floor area is less than 1,000 square feet **and** the travel distance from any point to an exit is less than 50 feet.
- b. Where the special amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply system shall be of an approved temporary means.

4. Exiting (CBC 411.7, 1013)

- a. Exit signs shall be installed at the required exit or exit access doorways of amusement buildings per CBC 411.7 and CBC 1013. Approved directional marking shall be provided.
- b. Where mirrors, mazes, or other designs are utilized that disguise the path of egress travel such that they are not apparent, approved and listed low level exit signs that comply with CBC 1013.5 and directional path markings listed in accordance with UL 1994 shall be provided and located not more than 8" above the walking surface and or or near the path of egress travel
- c. Such markings shall become visible in an emergency. The directional exit marking shall be activated by the automatic fire detection system and the automatic sprinkler system in accordance with CBC/CFC 907.2.12.2.
- d. Where photo luminescent exit signs are installed, activating light source and viewing distance shall be in accordance with the listing and markings of the signs.

5. Other Requirements

- a. Combustible decorative material used in Group A occupancy amusement buildings shall be flame resistant. Materials that cannot be made flame resistant shall not be used. CBC 411.8, CBC 803.1, CFC Chapter 8.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. The number and arrangement of exits shall comply with the provisions of the building code. CBC Chapter 10.
- e. 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.

6. Tents Used as Amusement Buildings

- a. All fire code requirements for tents shall apply. (CFC Chapter 31)
- b. The design of the tent shall be approved and shall include features that prevent the accumulation of smoke. (CBC Chapter 31E)
- c. The maximum occupancy is limited to 49 people in the tent at any time to maintain the use as a Group B occupancy.
- d. An approved fire watch shall be established and maintained throughout the performance. 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.
- e. All decorative materials shall be composed of flame retardant materials or shall be treated with a flame retardant. Materials that cannot be made flame retardant shall not be used.