



Tucson Fire Department Temporary Amusement Building Information

Definitions

Special Amusement Building: A building that is temporary, permanent, or mobile and that provides a walkway along or that contains a device or system that conveys passengers around or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement. Egress from the structures may not be readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path.

Approval

1. Approval is required to operate a special amusement building for a period of time not to exceed 45 days. Plans shall be submitted to the Fire Prevention Section and approved 30 days prior to the opening of the building or structure to the public.
2. Tents, canopies, and membrane structures used as special amusement buildings shall be subject to all the requirements of those structures including permits as required by structure size.
3. Permanent structures used as temporary amusement buildings shall be subject to all the requirements of a building in that occupancy class (A3), including Certificate of Occupancy requirements. A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy may be granted for buildings that do not already have a Certificate of Occupancy for that occupancy class.
4. The building or structure shall not be occupied by the public prior to approval of the fire code official.
5. Amusement buildings or portions thereof which are without walls or a roof and constructed to prevent the accumulation of smoke in assembly areas are not subject to these regulations.
6. Where mazes, mirrors, or other effects are used to confound the egress path, exits and exit signs shall be approved by the building official and where practicable, shall comply with the requirements specified in the Tucson Fire Code.
7. When in the opinion of the fire code official the Temporary Amusement Building creates a situation in which the occupancy is at greater risk of fire, the fire code official may require fire watch or standby personnel to monitor the occupancy.

Construction

1. Special amusement buildings shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire sprinkler system. When the special amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an approved temporary means.
 - **Exception:** An automatic sprinkler system is not required where the total floor area of a temporary amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet and the travel distance from any point to an exit is less than 50 feet.
2. Special amusement buildings shall be equipped with an automatic fire detection system.
3. No portion of a maze may be further than 50 feet from an obvious marked exit out of the maze.
4. Curtains, draperies, hangings, and other decorative materials which are suspended from walls or ceiling, or covering the floor, shall be flame resistant or noncombustible. Combustible plastic sheeting shall not be used.
5. Furnishings or decorations of an explosive or highly flammable character shall not be used.
6. When a fire retardant coating is used on decorative materials it shall be maintained so as to retain the effectiveness of the treatment.
7. The interior finish used in Temporary Amusement Buildings shall be Class A. Interior wall and ceiling finishes shall be classified in accordance with ASTM E 84. Such interior finish materials shall be grouped in the following classes in accordance with their flame spread and smoke-developed indexes.
 - Class A: Flame spread 0-25; smoke-developed 0-450.
 - Class B: Flame spread 26-75; smoke-developed 0-450.
 - Class C: Flame spread 76-200; smoke-developed 0-450.

Hazards

1. Open flame, flammable and combustible liquids are prohibited within Temporary Amusement Buildings.

Operating at Reduced Lighting Levels

1. Guides are required when haunted houses; fun houses and similar uses operate at reduced lighting levels. The guides shall be responsible for complying with the following provisions:

- When people enter the amusement building they shall be organized into a group not to exceed 20 persons including the guides.
 - The group shall be accompanied by guides who are familiar with the facility.
 - The guides shall have an operable flashlight on their person at all times.
 - The guides shall have direct communication with an attendant located at the switch controlling the house lights.
2. There shall be an attendant who can immediately turn on the house lights in case of an emergency.
 3. Any change of elevation within the building or structure operating at a reduced lighting level shall be provided with adequate illumination at the floor level.

Exit Marking

1. Exit signs shall be installed at the required exit or exit access doorways of amusement buildings. Approved directional exit markings shall also be provided.
2. Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times.
3. Where mirrors, mazes or other designs are utilized that disguise the path of egress travel in such a way that they are not easily apparent, approved low-level exit signs and directional path markings shall be provided. These signs shall be located not more than 8 inches above the walking surface and on or near the path of egress travel. The markings shall become visible in an emergency.
4. The directional exit marking shall be activated by the automatic fire detection system and the automatic sprinkler system.