



Tucson Fire Department Requirements for Gem Show Safety

The Tucson Fire Department welcomes all participants of the Gem and Mineral Show. It is our commitment to help provide a safe environment for the public, and for the show providers. Over the years, our staff has gained extensive experience in providing a high level of safety throughout the show. For your convenience we have listed a few of the requirements below that will help to provide for a safe event.

Building Safety

- Pre-Show Fire Prevention Inspections – All venues (hotels and event centers) shall have a pre-event fire prevention inspection prior to Gem Show activities. All corrections of fire code violations found shall be completed and approved prior to Gem Show activities.
- Exiting – All structures shall have clear, unobstructed, well-marked, and illuminated exit paths. All exit signs and emergency lighting shall be in proper working order prior to Gem Show activities. Exits or exit access shall not be removed without the prior approval of the fire department.
- Exit Aisles – All aisles in display areas in line with exits shall be at least 44 inches wide, unless specifically approved or otherwise regulated.
- Doors – Stairwell fire doors shall not be obstructed or otherwise impaired from their proper operation at any time.
- Storage – Combustible boxes, packaging, or other trash shall be stored away from buildings, stairways, and breezeways. Stairwells shall not be used for storage. Storage shall be kept neat and orderly.
- Addressing – All hotels and event locations shall have address numbers posted and visible to approaching vehicles. Posted addresses shall conform to Pima County address display requirements.
- Fire Suppression Systems – All systems shall be in proper working order. The fire department shall be notified immediately when a system is out of service.

Fire Lanes

- Maintenance – Fire lanes shall not be obstructed in any manner.
- Dimensions – Fire lanes shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet.
- Location – Fire lanes shall be located so that no portion of the facility is more than 150 feet from fire department accesses.

- Marking – Fire lanes shall be marked with appropriate signs. In areas adjacent to or subject to parking or displays of goods for sale, fire lanes shall be marked with painted lines on the ground or barrier tape.
- Enforcement policy – All vehicles parked unattended in a fire lane or blocking a hydrant will be issued a citation. Vehicles parked in fire lanes that are in the process of loading or unloading shall be moved as soon as loading or unloading is finished. Vehicles loading or unloading shall not be left unattended at any time.
- Responsibility - It is the responsibility of the property owner and show promoter to keep all fire lanes clear of vehicles and displays. If a vehicle or display is found to be blocking a fire lane the property owner / show promoter shall immediately move the vehicle or display. If repeated violations occur, then the property owner and show promoter shall be held responsible and will be issued a citation.

Sales from hotel rooms

- Aisles shall be provided and maintained. An exit pathway shall be maintained from all rooms at all times.
- Firewatch is required in buildings when sleeping rooms are used for sales and the occupants are required to exit through self-closing doors and into an interior hallway, or when required by the fire code official. Firewatch is not required if rooms exit directly to the outside, or if the building is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system.
- Hallways and above ground egress balconies shall not be used for displays or sales of goods without written permission from the fire department.
- Ground floor sidewalks can be used for displays and sales only if exits are not obstructed and a minimum of 36-inch wide aisles, or as ordered by the fire official, are maintained.

Food Vendors

- For information regarding cooking booths refer to the Tucson Fire Department's Exterior Cooking Booth information sheet.
- Cooking booths shall be separated from tents and canopies that are not being used as cooking booths by a minimum of 20 feet.
- Exposed or non-exposed open flame cooking devices, open flames, or flammable and combustible liquids shall not be permitted inside or within 20 feet of tents, canopies, or membrane structures that are not considered cooking booths.
- Only electrically powered warming devices are approved for use in tents or canopies that are not considered cooking booths. These devices are limited to situations that do not pose a risk to occupants involved in other activities within the structure.
- If electrically powered cooking appliances are utilized on a table the table shall be flame-resistant, or a flame-resistant covering shall be placed under the appliance.

- Exposed open flame cooking devices shall not be used within booths, tents, or canopies that have combustible overhangs without an approved exhaust hood as required by the Tucson Mechanical Code.
- An approved and tagged K class extinguisher is required on site and shall be readily accessible for cooking that involves oil or fats. All other cooking or heating operations require a minimum 2A:10BC extinguisher.
- Any flame or heat-producing device shall have adequate clearance from combustibles, the public, and the public access ways. Barriers may be required to maintain clearance from the public.
- A clear exit pathway shall be maintained from every booth.
- Booths shall be free of fire, safety, and health hazards.

Tents and Canopies

- For information on tents and canopies refer to the Tucson Fire Department's Tent and Canopy information sheet.
- Permits are required for tents in excess of 400 square feet. Permits are also required for canopies in excess of 900 square feet. (Permits can be obtained at 201 N. Stone Ave.)
- A detailed site and floor plan shall be provided for all permitted structures.
- Permitted structures shall not be occupied prior to fire department inspection and approval.
- Exit signs shall be installed at all required exit openings on tents or canopies when the occupant load is 50 or more. (Example: A tent or canopy 1500 square feet or larger, used as a mercantile, would have an occupant load of 50 and require exit signs to be posted at the exits.)
- Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times
- Illuminated exit signs for structures with an occupant load of 50 to 300 shall be lit from two separate circuits. Illuminated exit signs for structures with an occupant load greater than 300 shall be lit from two separate sources of power, one of which shall be an approved emergency system.
- Externally illuminated exit signs shall have plainly legible letters not less than 6 inches high. The word "exit" shall be in contrast with the background.
- Exit signs shall be posted where necessary to indicate the direction of egress when the occupant load is 50 or greater.
- Exit access in tents and canopies shall be maintained free and clear.
- Aisle width in tents for public shall be 44" or 1' per 50 persons, unless specifically approved otherwise.
- The means of egress shall be lit at all times that the tent or canopy is occupied. This illumination shall have an intensity of not less than 1 foot-candle at floor level. During daylight hours natural light may provide the required light intensity. At night an additional source of light may be required. When an additional source of lighting is required emergency lighting shall be provided in case of power failure.

- Emergency lighting:
 - Emergency lighting is required in tents and canopies when the occupant load is 50 or greater.
 - Power for an emergency lighting system shall be provided by an emergency electrical system capable of providing power for 90 minutes.
- Structures shall have staked anchor plates, tethered stakes, or water filled 55-gallon barrels at each structure post. In addition, tents or canopies 400 square feet or larger in size shall be secured with two stakes or two water filled 55-gallon barrels at each outside corner of the structure.
- Smaller (10 foot X 10 foot) pop-up type canopies may be secured in any manner that provides adequate anchorage.
- All electrical shall be GFCI protected, power strips with breaker protection.
- Electrical cords shall be protected from becoming a tripping hazard.
- Combustible vegetation within 30 feet of the tent or canopy shall be removed.
- No smoking signs shall be posted conspicuously throughout the inside of tents and canopies.
- Flameproof material shall be used for tents and canopies. A label stating that the material is flameproof shall be affixed to the structure.
- Fire extinguishers shall be mounted and visible at each exit of a permitted tent, on opposite sides of permitted canopies, and every 75 feet of smaller tents and canopies.
- Panic hardware shall be supplied at each door on tent doors that latch.
- Tent exits shall not be locked unless the locking mechanism consists of panic hardware in proper working order.
- The width and proper operation of tent exits shall be maintained despite weather conditions.
- All tents, canopies, and membrane structures shall be approved by the fire department prior to the introduction of vendors, displays, or merchandise.

Electrical Requirements

- All electric service shall be per the NEC (National Electric Code).
- All exterior electric power used must be GFCI protected.
- Only listed outlet strips with circuit breaker protection are allowed as multi-plug adapters.
- Extension cords shall be adequately protected and secured from mechanical and environmental damage and free of any and all splices.
- All extension cords must be of the three wire grounded type. Non-grounded cords are prohibited.
- Multiplug adapters shall have built-in fuse or circuit breaker protection.
- All light fixtures, multiplug adapters, and extension cords shall be listed and approved for the intended use. Light fixtures shall only be used with lamps of the size intended by the manufacture.
- Light fixtures shall be adequately secured and kept away from combustible materials.

- All panels and disconnects shall be readily accessible with a working space clearance of 30 inches in width and 36 inches in depth.

Responsibilities of show vendors

- Vendors shall be responsible to see that their booth or display area is free of any fire, electrical, or safety hazards.
- Vendors shall be responsible for obtaining any materials necessary to make their booth or display area safe.

Responsibilities of show promoters and property owners

- Shall see that vendors have materials necessary to make their booth or display areas safe.
- Shall be responsible to see that Gem Show activities in no way lead to unsafe conditions for the public, Gem Show vendors, or themselves.
- Shall be responsible to see that all fire department accesses remain clear.
- Shall assure that all tents, canopies, and membrane structures be approved by the fire department prior to the introduction of vendors, displays, or merchandise.

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