



Calaveras County

Building Department

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Code Compliance

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Temporary Tent Permits Frequently Asked Questions Based on 2019 California Fire Code

The information provided is to aid in safe use and occupancy of temporary tent structures installed to comply with the Governor's orders during the Covid-19 pandemic and is intended to apply to small open shade structures to facilitate private business operation. While the information is accurate for other temporary structures, additional fire codes apply to fully enclosed and/or exceedingly large structures built to support special events. Please see the Calaveras Building Department for additional guidance on enclosed and larger tent structures.

When is a Temporary Tent Permit required?

A permit is required if the size of the tent is over 400 square feet.

If there are no sides is a permit still required?

If the tent is open on all sides, the tent can be up to 700 square feet without a permit. However, if there is fencing, partition walls, furniture used as barriers, and other obstructions set up on the perimeter of the tent it is not considered open.

Can I place exempt tents next to each other and avoid a permit?

No. if tents are placed closer than 12 feet apart the square footage is cumulative.

How close can I place a temporary tent to a building?

Minimum 12' from other structures.

Can I cook or have heaters in the tent?

No cooking or open flame devices are allowed in the tent. Any lighting, cooling, or heating equipment must be listed for use in the tent per the manufacturer's installation instructions.

When an inspection required?

Once a permit is obtained, the tent must be inspected prior to commencing the activity the tent was intended for. At the end of the permit period the tent must be removed, but no further inspection is required to verify its removal.

What does the fire inspector look for?

The fire inspector will look for the following:

- 1. The tent is installed per manufacturer's installation instructions.*
- 2. The tent meets the minimum fire setbacks to other tents and structures.*
- 3. The tent is labeled as compliance with the Office of the State Fire Marshal as Fire Retardant*
- 4. The tent is adequately secure to prevent displacement from high wind.*
- 5. The tent is not blocking building exits and/or fire access lanes.*
- 6. There is a 2A10BC fire extinguisher present for every 1,000 of tent area.*

Government Center
891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249-9709

7. *Any seating provided does not block required exiting pathways.*
8. *All lighting, heating, or cooling equipment is listed for tent use and approved by the manufacturer.*
9. *If the Tent is allowed to be fully enclosed exit signage is required if the occupant load is 50 or more persons.*

How long can I use a temporary tent?

Generally, a temporary tent can be erected for up to 180 days in a calendar year on a single premises. However, tents erected under the Calaveras Board of Supervisors Resolution 20200721r080 shall be allowed to be used until the resolution is ended.

Where do I get a permit for a temporary tent?

A temporary tent permit can be applied for at the Calaveras Building Department located at 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.

Do I need to submit plans with the application?

A site plan and seating plan are required for tents with an occupant load of 50 or more persons.

Is there a fee?

There is no fee for temporary tents issued under Resolution 20200721r080. However, for temporary tents for special events the fee is currently based on staff hourly rate for the time spend to process the permit and perform the inspection. Please contact the Calaveras Building Department for fees related to your specific event.