

TENT FIRE SAFETY AND INSPECTION INFORMATION

All tents erected in the Town of Selma for the purpose of the assembly of people, must follow guidelines set forth by the North Carolina Fire Code. All tents permitted by the Town are subject to a fire inspection prior to use. The following are some safety features that the Fire Code Official will be looking for.

- Tents with an area larger than 200 square feet shall have a permit and inspected by a Town of Selma Fire Code Official.
- Tents with ALL sides open and no closer than 12 feet from any other structure and less than 700sq ft do not need a permit.
- Tents shall not be erected for longer than 180 days on any single premise
- Tents shall be accessible by fire apparatus.
- Exits must be provided and evenly distributed so that no place in the tent is more than 100ft from an exit.
- Number and width of exits shall be determined by the occupant load
 - ex. 199 occupants must have 2 exits and be 72” wide
 - 499 occupants must have 3 exits and be 72” wide
 - 999 occupants must have 4 exits and be 96” wide
- Aisle ways must be at least 44” wide
- An occupant load over 50 shall require illuminated exit signs.
- All materials the tent is constructed of must meet NFPA 701 for flame propagation treatment. A certificate of performance testing must be submitted before a permit shall be issued. A permanent tag must be affixed to the tent bearing the size and fabric or material type. These things should be available to you from the Tent Company or Manufacturer.
- Hay, straw, shavings, or similar combustible materials shall not be allowed in the tent.
- Smoking shall not be allowed inside a tent and “NO SMOKING” signs shall be posted.
- Approved and inspected fire extinguishers shall be provided and mounted every 50ft.

There will be an inspection fee of \$30.00 for all Tent Inspections. For further information or questions, contact the Selma Fire Department at 919-965-2697.