



MOBILE FIRE - RESCUE DEPARTMENT FIRE CODE ADMINISTRATION

Seasonal Assembly & Amusement Occupancies

A Fire and Life Safety Inspection and Permit is required from the Bureau of Fire Prevention prior to the operation of any building or structure occupied as haunted houses or other similar amusement proposes for less than 45 days. Safety is of up most importance due to walkways arranged so that the means of egress are not readily apparent to the occupant.

Permanent building utilized for amusement purposes shall meet the requirements of the 2009 International Fire and Building Codes.

Requirements for Approval include but may not be limited to:

1. The maximum occupant load in all Assembly occupancy amusement buildings shall be determined by the building code and shall be posted in a conspicuous location.
2. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in all amusement buildings except those where the floor area is less than 1,000 square feet and the exit travel distance from any point that is less than 50 feet.
3. The number and arrangement of exits shall comply with the provisions of the building code. Exit doors must be equipped with panic hardware.
4. Egress shall at all times be maintained in a safe condition and shall be available for immediate use and free of all obstructions. Aisles, passageways, or stairways in any building shall not be obstructed with tables, showcases or other obstructions during hours when the building is open to the public.
5. Illuminated or self-luminous exit signs and directional exit markings shall be provided
6. Where mazes, mirrors, or other effects are used to confound the egress path, exits and exit signs shall be approved by the fire code official and a Fire watch shall be implemented for this occupancy. No portion of a maze may be further than 50 feet from an obvious marked exit out of the maze.

7. Combustible decorative material used in assembly occupancies and amusement buildings shall be flame resistant. 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.
8. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as determined by the fire code official. The minimum rating shall not be less than 2A:10BC. The minimum travel distance to an extinguisher shall not exceed 75 feet.
9. There shall be an attendant who can immediately turn on the house lights in case of an emergency. 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:
 - a. When people enter the amusement building they shall be organized into a group not to exceed 20 persons including the guides.
 - b. The group shall be accompanied by guides who are familiar with the facility.
 - c. The guides shall have an operable flashlight on their person at all times.
 - d. The guides shall have direct communication with an attendant located at the switch controlling the house lights.
 - e. 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.