

Tent and Membrane Fire Code (IFC 2021)

Listed below are most commonly cited codes and may not include all the code requirements for your set-up or event. The standards specified below are the minimal requirements, which the applicant may exceed. Additional Fire Codes requirements may apply during final inspection for any unforeseeable circumstances. A final inspection is required to confirm the event matches both the approved plot/site and floor plan. If there are any questions or clarification needed about specific codes please reach out to EHSfiresafety@unm.edu.

Tent Requirements
Approval: Tents and Membrane Structures totaling more than 400 sq/ft must receive approval from fire code official. (IFC 2021 3103.2)
Exit Signs: Exit signs shall be installed at required exit doorways where the exit serves an occupant load of 50 or more. (IFC 2021 3103.12.6)
Means of Egress: The required width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times to a public way. Guy wires, guy ropes or other support members shall not cross a means of egress at a height less than 8ft. The floor surface of the means of egress shall be maintained.
Minimum Egress Width: Exit width will be based on occupant load but shall never be less than 72inches. (IFC 2021 3103.12.2)
Location: Tents shall not be set up blocking the exits of surrounding buildings. (IFC 2021 1022.2.2) Tents shall not be set up blocking fire apparatus access roads or fire hydrants.
Combustible Vegetation: Combustible vegetation that could create a fire hazard shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent or membrane structure, and from areas within 30ft of such structures. (IFC 2021 3107.18)
Anchorage: Tents shall be anchored properly to prevent collapse and withstand elements of weather. (IFC 2021 3103.9) UNM does not allow tents to be staked into the ground without proper approval.
Fire Extinguishers: Portable Fire Extinguishers shall be provided for each Tent. (IFC 2021 3105.9) Portable Fire Extinguishers shall be provided for each generator. (IFC 2021 3106.6.3)
Open Flames: Open flames, devices emitting fire or heat, cooking devices, or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or membrane structure while open to the public, unless approved by the fire code official. (IFC 2021 3107.4)

Generators: Generators shall be separated from tents or membrane structures by not less than 20 ft and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure, or other approved means. (IFC 2021 3107.16)

Material: Tent or membrane structure material shall be fire retardant. (IFC 2021 3104.2)

Clearances: There shall be a minimum clearance of 3 feet between tent walls and tent contents. All dimensions shall be indicated on the floor plan. (IFC 2021 3107.8)

No Smoking: Smoking shall not be permitted in tents or membrane structures. Approved “No Smoking” signs shall be conspicuously posted. (IFC 2021 3107.3) Please keep in mind that UNM is a smoke free campus.

LP Gas: LP gas shall be located outside the tent, and the pressure relief valve shall be pointed away from tent or membrane structure. All LP gas on UNM campus must be permitted by the New Mexico State Gas Bureau and follow all of their requirements.

CID requirement- If equipment inside the tent is being powered by a “cam-lock” generator the tent must be bonded and approved by UNM Electrical Inspector. This will also require a permit from CID.