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Tents and Other Membrane Structures In accordance with the 2018 North Carolina Fire Code

Effective January 1, 2019:

NEW – membrane structures (bouncy houses, blow-up houses, etc.) may now require inspections and permits. See below for details.

NEW – temporary stage canopies. See below for details.

NEW – Any inspections taking place outside of normal work hours will require an additional \$150 fee

NEW – All structures must be taken down if the National Weather Service issues a High Wind Advisory. Should this occur, permit is automatically revoked. Contact us for re-issuance at no charge once the Advisory has been lifted.

- The following require an **inspection**, but no permit:
 - Any tent between 700 – 800 square feetThere is a \$50 fee for the inspection which has to be paid before inspection date
- The following will require an **inspection and permit**:
 - Any membrane structures larger than 400 square feet
 - Any tent larger than 800 square feet that has *at least one wall*
 - Any tent larger than 1800 square feet *with no walls*Fees and process for permitting remain the same:
 - \$150 fee for construction and operations permits, paid before inspection date
- Tents and Membrane Structures cannot stay up for more than 180 consecutive days within a year's time.
- If your Tent or Membrane Structure has an occupancy load of more than 50, you must provide a detailed site and floor plan before the inspection takes place.
- If you're using your Tent or Membrane Structure as a place of assembly, there may be more requirements depending on how many people will be occupying it. Contact us if you have any questions.
- Tents can't be within 20 feet of the lot line, buildings, other tents or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines.
- There needs to be an unobstructed 12 foot fire break on all sides of Tent or Membrane Structure.
- All Tents and Membrane Structures must have fire extinguishers.
- Temporary Stage Canopies – Construction documents **must be sent to both the Fire Inspector and the Building Inspector** before a permit will be issued
 - These cannot be used for more than 45 days
 - If the canopy is over 400 square feet, it needs to be inspected by two different entities:
 - Fire Inspector, inspection fees noted above apply
 - Independent Inspector, at the expense of the owner
- If your event is expected to have over 1000 people attending, you must have a crowd management plan approved by New Bern Fire-Rescue