



Mount Airy Fire Department

Office of the Fire Chief

437 Rockford Street
Mount Airy, NC 27030

Street Festival Code Enforcement Update

General Requirements:

- 1) All street festivals and related events shall be inspected by a Mount Airy Fire Department code enforcement official(s) when deemed large enough to pose a significant delay in fire suppression response to the affected area due to street closures, tent set-ups, or other factors related to such events.
- 2) Tents are defined by fire code as a structure, enclosure or shelter, with or without sidewalls or drops, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects.
- 3) Permit required tents are of the following sizes:
 - Individual tents larger than 400 square feet with sides (enclosed)
 - Individual tents larger than 700 square feet without sides (canopy)
 - Multiple tents placed together or in a row that has an aggregate area of more than 700 square feet. If less than 700 square feet of tents are erected side by side (ex. 6 - 10x10's so as to avoid a permit) there must be a fire break of no less than ten (10) feet between any other tents . An example of this is the set-up on Main Street at our annual Autumn Leaves Festival.
- 4) Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be affixed and be visible in any permit required tent.
- 5) Portable fire extinguishers shall be present in all permit required tents so as the travel distance to access one may not be over 75 feet.
- 6) Tents that are larger than 15,000 square feet in size and not used for cooking purposes must have a fire break clearance from other tents by at least 20 ft.
- 7) Tents that are less than 10,000 square feet in size not used for cooking purposes and that have the required means of egress travel distances and exit door sizes are not required to be separated from buildings. However, the tent shall not block a building's means of egress.
- 8) All permit required tents or tent arrangements must have flame propagation performance treatment documentation affixed on the tent or be made available to the fire code official at the time of inspection. This documentation shall be from an approved testing laboratory certifying

that all the required parts of the tent meets the flame propagation performance requirements of NFPA 701 or have been treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner to meet the said requirements of NFPA 701.

- 9) No combustible materials such as hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials shall be located within any permit required tent containing an assemble occupancy except for the materials deemed necessary for the daily feeding and care of animals. Sawdust and shavings utilized for a public performance or exhibit shall be allowed provided the sawdust and shavings are kept damp. Combustible materials shall not be permitted under stands or seats at any time.
- 10) Portable fire extinguishers shall be present in all permit required tents so as the travel distance to access one may not be over 75 feet.

Cooking tents

- 1) Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials in permit required tents.
- 2) Operations such as warming of foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations that use solid flammables, butane or other similar devices which do not pose an ignition hazard shall be approved.
- 3) Permit required tents used for cooking that have sides (enclosed) shall be separated from other tents by a minimum of 20 feet.
- 4) Outdoor cooking that produces grease laden vapors or emits sparks shall not be performed within 20 feet of a permit required tent.
- 5) LP Gas storage containers must be stored outside of permit required tents and containers less than 500 gallon capacity shall have a minimum separation distance of 10 feet from a building. 500 gallon or larger LP Gas containers shall have a minimum separation distance of at least 25 feet from a building.
- 6) **All** gas connections shall be inspected for leaks and tanks shall be secured.
- 7) We will work with the Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce and the organizers of all the events on making sure all cooking tents that are using a depth of grease have at least an ABC extinguisher in the tent during the event.

Cooking trailers and food trucks

- 1) Cooking trailers and food trucks fall under the Department of Transportation regulatory authority. We will work with the Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce and the organizers of all the events on making sure all trailers that are cooking with a depth of grease have at least an ABC extinguisher in the trailers during the event.
- 2) **All** gas connections and tank security will be checked as stated earlier.

Street access

- 1) Fire service apparatus access through street festivals shall be no less than 20 feet wide at all times throughout the downtown area, including all intersections. This also includes side streets and alleys incorporated into the events. The MAFD fire code official shall have the authority at any time to require an increase in the minimum access widths where he/she deems the current access inadequate for fire or rescue operations.
- 2) It shall not be permitted to close a street on **two** ends so as to completely block access to a certain area of the street from fire department access. This should include but not be limited to any tents, bandstands, membrane structures, etc.