

Town of Essex - Building Department
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TENT INFORMATION

- 1) **Conformance R107.2** Temporary structures (TENTS) and uses shall conform to the structural strength, fire safety, means of egress, light, ventilation and sanitary requirements of this code as necessary to ensure the public health, safety and general welfare.
- 2) **Permits are not required R107.1 General** - for tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes, tent less than 350 square feet total area, tents 900 square feet and smaller in total area when occupied by fewer than 50 persons, which have no heating appliances, no installed electrical service, and are erected for fewer than 72 hours.
- 3) Within a tent, the tent supplier or homeowner may plug in their own equipment, including exit signs and lighting provided they are connected to a receptacle provided with GFCI protection.
- 4) Ground Rods are required **ONLY AT A GENERATOR** and shall be grounded effectively to the generator. Not required at tent poles.
- 5) Electric power taken from a dwelling shall use the dwellings grounding system.
- 6) Lighting shall be protected by guards and kept away from combustible materials. Lighting shall be kept high enough within the tent so as not to make contact with pedestrians.
- 7) Electrical power directly from a generator, with outlets and plug-in cords, may be connected by the tent supplier or homeowner. **GFCI OUTLETS MUST BE USED AT TENT. An Electrical Permit is required.**
- 8) Electrical power from sub-panel GFCI outlets to within tent may be connected by the tent supplier or homeowner. **An Electrical Permit is required** and may be taken out by the tent supplier, homeowner or agent.
- 9) Electrical power from house panel to sub panel shall be installed by a qualified licensed electrical contractor. **An Electrical Permit is required.**
- 10) Sub panel may be inside or outside the tent and must be supported.
- 11) NFPA 102 – Open flame device is not allowed. – Must have hurricane glass around flame.
- 12) Sterno type food warming devices are allowed in tents **WITHOUT A PERMIT** if they are supported by an approved holding device which would keep the sterno from falling over.
- 13) All tents with an occupant load greater than 50 shall have two exits.
- 14) All tents that are required to have more than one exit shall have approved exit signs. Signs do not have to be internally lit unless used at night; however, must have back up power for illuminated signs.
EXCEPTION: where tent has no sides and means of egress are obvious.
- 15) **2005 CFSC Guidebook. 2404.15.5 Cooking tents.** Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet (6096 mm).