

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT



BUILDING SAFETY

Temporary Use of Outdoor Areas

Temporary Tents

To provide additional retail or seating capacity and improve physical distancing due to COVID-19 impacts in Anchorage, Emergency Order EO-12 provided the ability for businesses to temporarily locate retail and seating areas outdoors in required parking and circulation areas. These expanded retail or seating areas may also include canopies or tent structures. These temporary retail and seating areas require review and approval by municipal agencies including Planning, Traffic, Right-of-Way and Fire. To facilitate this review applications for Temporary Use of Outdoor Areas can be submitted to the Planning Department who will route the application to agencies.

The International Fire Code requires businesses with temporary outdoor assembly areas with or without tents to obtain an Operational Permit through the Anchorage Fire Department. Temporary tents that meet the criteria below do not require additional review as part of an AFD Operational Permit

2012 IFC Section 3103.2: The following temporary tents do not require a permit and approval from the fire code official.

- A single tent 400 square feet and less.
- Any number of tents placed with less than 12 feet of fire break clearance having an aggregate area of up to 400 square feet.
- Any number of tents up to 400 square feet each that are separated by at least 12 feet on all sides.
- A single tent up to 700 square feet, open on all sides and having a minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents.
- Individual tents open on all sides, placed with less than 12 feet of fire break clearance to each other, having an aggregate area not exceeding 700 square feet, and having a minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents.

Temporary tents exceeding these limitations require an Operational Permit from the fire code official. Note they also require planning approval.

Per **IFC Section 3103.5** temporary tents are limited to 180 days within a 12-month period.

IFC Section 3103.9 requires documentation of structural stability be submitted to the fire code official.

Fire dept approval process:

Temporary tents that are larger than the area limitations listed above require an AFD Operational Permit per **2012 IFC Section 105.7.16**. This is not an IBC building permit. To obtain AFD approval, the Planning Department will route Temporary use of Outdoor Area applications along with an AFD Operational Permit application to the Fire Department for review/approval.



Robert Doehl, Building Official
DATE: August 11, 2020