



# **KERNERSVILLE FIRE RESCUE**

## *Fire Marshal's Office*

Post Office Drawer 728 • Kernersville, North Carolina 27285-0728

### **PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS**

#### **Introduction**

Maintaining a safe environment from the threat of fire for all occupants of the Town of Kernersville is a primary function and goal of the Fire Marshal's Office. Special Amusement Buildings such as "Haunted Houses" or "Fun Houses" present a difficult problem in trying to meet the provisions of the Fire Code and maintain such a safe environment. The following provisions will be required to be met to assure the safety of all persons participating and attending a Special Amusement Building attraction.

#### **Definition**

A building that is temporary, permanent or mobile that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path, or is not readily available because of the mode of conveyance through the building or structure.

#### **Permit Required**

A Special Use Permit shall be required to be obtained from the Fire Marshal's Office for anyone wishing to open a special amusement building to the public. The permit fee shall be based upon the Special Use Permit Fee Schedule. This permit shall be completed on a Special Use Permit form.

#### **Permit Issuance Procedure**

1. The person wishing to obtain a Special Use Permit for the special amusement building shall first contact the Fire Marshal's Office. An appointment for a Fire Inspection shall be made to inspect the building planned to be used for the event. The Permit Fee should be paid at this time.
2. A copy of the guidelines for use of special amusement buildings will be given to the applicant. The Fire Inspection should not be conducted until the requirements for safety systems of the building are in place and the facility is ready for use.

3. The inspector, upon completion of the fire inspection and satisfied that all guidelines and provisions of the Fire Code have been met, shall then sign and complete the Special Use Permit and give a copy to the applicant, which must be kept at the facility at all times. The inspector will then return the appropriate copies to Fire Marshal's Office for filing.

### **Inspection and Revocation of Permit**

1. At any time the special amusement event is open to the public, a fire inspection may be conducted by a Fire Official to assure compliance with all guidelines and the Fire Code.
2. In the event that the specified guidelines and/or the Fire Code regulations are not being met, then the person that obtained the Special Use Permit will be subject to a Civil Citation. If the violations are of such a severe nature as to be hazardous to the lives and/or well being of the public, then the Fire Official may revoke the Special Use Permit, which will not allow the further use of the special amusement building. If the violations are corrected, then the Special Use Permit may be reinstated with no charge.
3. In the event a Special Use Permit is revoked and the occupant refuses to comply with the required regulations, a refund of the permit fee will not be allowed.

### **Regulations regarding the use of Special Amusement Buildings**

1. An approved automatic smoke detection system shall be provided in special amusement building .  
*Exception: In areas where ambient conditions will cause a smoke detection system to alarm, an approved alternative type of automatic detector shall be installed.*
2. Activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector with alarm verification, the automatic sprinkler system or other approved fire detection device shall automatically:
  - a. *Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 foot-candle (11 lux) at the walking surface level.*
  - b. *Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions;*  
*and*
  - c. *Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency.*
3. Such system response shall also include activation of a prerecorded message, clearly audible throughout the special amusement building, instructing patrons to proceed to the nearest exit. Alarm signals used in conjunction with the prerecorded message shall produce a sound which is distinctive from other sounds used during normal operation.

4. Wiring to the auxiliary devices and equipment used to accomplish the above fire safety functions shall be monitored for integrity in accordance with NFPA 72.
5. An emergency voice/alarm communication system, which is also allowed to serve as a public address system, shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 72 and be audible throughout the entire special amusement building.
6. Special amusement buildings exceeding 1,000 square feet of area in use for the event or exceeding a 50 foot travel distance from any point to an exit require automatic sprinkler coverage.
7. Emergency Exits shall be provided throughout the structure to insure the safe and prompt egress of occupants in the event of an emergency. These exits shall not be covered or concealed in anyway and shall be available for immediate use without any type of hindrance. These exits shall be marked "Exit"- All Exit signs shall be of a fluorescent type with minimum size three-inch letters. All staff personnel shall know the location of all exits.
8. No obstacles shall be placed in the floor area that may slow or impede the occupants' escape in the event of an emergency. For areas where the means of egress may be confusing or difficult to find, arrows pointing to the exits shall be placed or painted on the floor. This should be a fluorescent color, which can be easily identified
9. All steps, ramps or outside porches shall be lighted at all times.
10. Flashlights shall be provided to all staff persons conducting the tours or going into the structure at any time
11. Multi-purpose fire extinguishers shall be installed throughout the structure so that the maximum travel distance to an extinguisher does not exceed 50 feet. The minimum size extinguisher allowed will be five (5) pounds.
12. All staff personnel shall know the location and use of all fire extinguishers in the structure.
13. There shall be absolutely No Smoking allowed inside the structure. "No Smoking" signs shall be posted at all entrances and at or near any ticket booth or ticket collection area. It will be the responsibility of the permit holder to enforce this rule.
14. No open flame, candle, or pyrotechnics shall be used within or in near proximity of the structure.
15. The use of straw, hay or sawdust near the exits or in the structure shall be used only if approved by the Fire Inspector. All straw, hay or

sawdust, tree or other combustible decorations or adornments shall be treated with an approved flame retardant prior to being used

16. Spliced Electrical Cords, home made switching devices, and/or open junction boxes and connections shall not be permitted.
17. Extension Cords of the lamp cord type number 16 gauge or smaller shall not be used as a wiring method. If extension cords are required, only type S, SJ, or SJO cords number 14 gauge or larger shall be permitted, or approved power bars with built in thermal protection may be used. All cords shall contain a grounding means and shall be properly connected.
18. All temporary wiring shall be in accordance to the National Electric Code. All wiring shall be properly secured to the wall or ceiling to prevent damage or shock injury. All splices shall be made in closed junction boxes.
19. The number of persons allowed inside the structure per group shall not be more than ten. Each group shall be lead through the structure by a competent staff person. There will be no more than two groups allowed inside the structure at any time. All staff persons leading groups shall be familiar with all the guidelines required for Haunted Houses.
20. In the event of an emergency, a warning signal will be sounded to notify all occupants to evacuate the structure. This signal shall indicate that the lights are to be turned on. The method of alarm shall be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. The alarm shall be tested each night before opening. All staff members are to be present for test. ***This is independent of the required fire alarm system.***
21. Other considerations for the safety of the public that may be necessary such as decorations, fire lanes, etc. shall be enforced by the Fire Inspector.