

Tent, Grilling and Inflatable Structure Requirements

Tent and Inflatable Structures Policies and Requirements

The State of Ohio Bureau of Building Code Compliance requires all groups or individuals at Ohio State who plan to erect tents or canopies, meet the following requirements:

- Temporary tents larger than **200 square feet** require approval from a state building official.
- Canopies (opened without side walls or drops on 75% or more of the perimeter) larger than **400 square feet** require approval from a state building official.
- Tents or groups of tents under one permit shall be separated from another tent or group of tents, or other existing structures by a **minimum distance of 20 feet**.
- If using an inflatable that may be occupied on or inside the structure; please call Ohio State University Fire Prevention at 614-247-FIRE (3473) for guidance and assistance with approval or permitting requirements.

Grilling on Campus

No charcoal grilling is permitted on the Ohio State University campus with the exception of designated locations.

Liquid propane grills are permitted on campus as long as the following safety protocols are adhered to:

- Ensure a fire extinguisher is available for use in case of fire or flare ups (do not “borrow” them from other buildings).
- Propane grills must be placed at least 10 feet from structures, and should not impede walkways or means of egress.
- Propane grills must be placed atop a shield to protect the surface beneath from drips/spills.
- Use a propane grill on a level surface, avoid uneven ground or inclines.
- Place grill away from brush, trees, foliage or other combustibles.

Tent Safety

When using tents:

1. Ensure exits are clearly marked with appropriate self-luminous signage.
2. No smoking signs are posted throughout the tent.
3. Fire extinguishers are available inside the tent.
4. Walkways and exits are clearly defined in the floor plan and during set-up to meet requirements set forth in the Ohio Fire Code.
5. Plan for severe weather; decide who will monitor conditions, how you will communicate a severe weather situation and where you will recommend shelter away from the tent.

Tent and Inflatable Structures Permitting Procedures

Application Forms, Fees and Procedures:

- Submit certificates to the DIC for membrane materials (provided by the tent company) meeting the provisions of section 703.4 OBC (Ohio Building Code) or fire propagation performance criteria in NFPA 701 and the manufacturer’s test protocol.
- Set up plan review and inspection appointment by contacting the DIC.

Division of Industrial Compliance:
1-800-523-3581

Policy for Tent Permit:
com.state.oh.us/documents/bdcc_TentPermitPolicy.pdf