



**DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT**  
**Inspection & Life Safety Education**  
**Fire Code Requirements for**  
**State Fair of Texas**

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This checklist provides some of the basic regulations governing the operation of the **State Fair of Texas**. It is not possible to cover all regulations. If you have a particular question or concern, please telephone or FAX the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department. The initial inspection is conducted at no charge. There is no charge for the first reinspection. The second reinspection is subject to a \$100.00 fee, with all reinspections after the second, subject to a \$105.00 fee. Inspections and reinspections will be conducted the week prior to the fair. All violations must be corrected before the booth, ride, concession or exhibit will receive approval to open.

**1. Plans.**

- A. Detailed floor plans must be submitted to Inspection & Life Safety Education at least 15 days prior to the scheduled opening of the show. It is not necessary to show the details of individual booths or tents.
- B. If erecting a tent or a structure as a display inside an exhibit building, plans showing the details of the tent placement or structure must be submitted to Inspection & Life Safety Education for approval at least 15 days prior to the scheduled opening of the fair.

**2. Permits**

- A. Welding and cutting equipment shall not be used for demonstration, except by special permit issued by the Fire Marshal.
- B. A permit and prior plans approval is required for fireworks, special effects materials and pyrotechnics.
- C. Artificial lighting such as lanterns, open flames, candles and burning or smoke emitting materials must be approved and permitted by the Fire Marshal prior to the event.
- D. Tents (400 square feet or greater) must be permitted by the Fire Marshal. Permits from Building Inspection (214/ 948-4480) and Special Events Office (214/939-2701) may also be required.
- E. Flammable liquids and/or gases shall be displayed, stored, or used inside buildings only as approved and permitted by the Fire Marshal. Other permits may apply. Contact Dallas Fire-Rescue for more information.

**3. Exits**

- A. All Doors shall be maintained in proper working order and unlocked at all times when the building is occupied.
- B. Exit ways shall be clear of obstructions. Dead-end corridors longer than 20 feet are prohibited.
- C. Directional exit marking and exit signs shall be illuminated.
- D. Exit doors shall not be blocked or obstructed from outside the building by vehicles, barricades, etc.
- E. Curtains, drapes, or decorations shall not visually or physically obstruct exit doors, exit signs, fire alarms, hose cabinets, standpipes, fire extinguishers, or any other life safety equipment at any time.

**4. Fire Access**

- A. Fire lanes shall not be obstructed or barricaded at any time in any manner. Vehicles shall not be parked in designated fire lanes at any time.
- B. Fire hydrants and fire department connections must be maintained with a 3-foot clearance, and no parking within 15 ft. of fire hydrant.

**5. Fire Alarm/Detection Systems**

- A. Systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times, and repaired or replaced when defective. Immediately notify Dallas Fire-Rescue at 214-670-4319 if fire alarm system becomes non-operational.
- B. Written operating instructions shall be provided and maintained at each location. Immediately notify Dallas Fire-Rescue at 214-670-4319 if fire alarm system becomes non-operational.
- C. Manual alarms and automatic alarms should be tested at least annually, and/or after modification, and tagged by a state licensed company.

**6. Sources of Ignition**

- A. "NO SMOKING" signs shall be posted throughout those areas designated by the Fire Marshal where smoking is prohibited, which includes all tents.
- B. In areas where smoking is permitted, on each table and at other convenient locations, approved noncombustible ashtrays or match receptacles shall be provided.
- C. Tents, awnings, drapes, curtains, table skirts, and other decorative materials shall be flame retardant.
- D. Unless they are flame retardant, combustible materials, merchandise, or signs shall not be attached to, hung from, or draped over flame retardant side and rear divider draperies of booths, or attached to table skirting facing the aisles.
- E. All hay and straw shall be flame retardant or covered with a flame retardant tarpaulin.

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- F. Sawdust and shavings shall be maintained flameproof at all times, by wetting down each day.
- G. Open flames, and burning or smoke-emitting materials when used as apart of an act, display, or show are prohibited unless permitted and approved prior to the event by the Fire Marshal.
- H. Combustible waste shall be collected as it accumulates, and stored in non-combustible, covered containers, which are emptied as necessary, but as a minimum at the close of each day.
- I. Each exhibitor shall provide an approved non-combustible container, with an approved cover, for daily accumulation of waste material.

## **7. Fire Extinguishers**

- A. Typically, one 2A-10BC rated fire extinguisher shall be provided for every booth, display, ride or concession within 75 feet travel distance or every 3,000 square feet of floor area.
- B. One 2A-10BC rated fire extinguisher will be provided for each internal combustion power source.
- C. One Class K rated fire extinguisher shall be provided within 30 feet of food processing equipment which produces grease-laden vapors. (Existing 40-BC extinguishers installed prior to July 1, 2004 that are serviceable and maintained are permitted.)
- D. Extinguishers shall be inspected annually and extinguishing systems semi-annually for proper maintenance and tagged by state licensed individuals.
- E. Extinguisher must be recharged or replaced immediately after use.

## **8. Equipment**

- A. Secure compressed gas cylinders to prevent cylinders from falling or being knocked over.
- B. Combustible shipping containers shall be stored in an area, and in a manner, approved by the Fire Marshal.
- C. Heating devices shall be installed in accordance with the Building and Mechanical Codes.
- D. Electrical wiring of a temporary nature shall be installed in accordance with the Electrical Code.
- E. Commercial cooking appliances shall be installed in accordance with the Mechanical and Plumbing Codes, and be equipped with ventilation hoods and approved automatic extinguishing systems. All other cooking equipment shall have separation from combustible materials, or non-combustible shielding, as approved by the Fire Marshal.
- F. Concessions used for cooking will have a 10-foot clearance on two sides and a 10-foot clearance from any amusement equipment or ride.

## **9. Fuel Source**

- A. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is not allowed to be used inside of buildings, tents, or in any area during the State Fair of Texas.
- B. All appliances and equipment fired by natural gas shall be approved by the Plumbing Inspector and Fire Marshal before being used.
- C. Use or demonstration of equipment using liquid fuel inside of buildings is prohibited.
- D. Rides and other internal combustion power sources refueling shall only be conducted after hours, when equipment is cool and not in use. Refueling is only allowed in the presence of the Fire Marshal.

## **10. Display of Automobiles, Trucks, Tractors, and Other Vehicles Using Flammable Fuels Inside a Building**

- A. Vehicle fuel tanks shall contain no more than one-quarter tank or 5 gallons of fuel (whichever is least).
- B. All fuel tanks shall be locked or effectively sealed.
- C. Battery cables (both leads) shall be disconnected from the ignition system.
- D. Ignition keys for display vehicles shall be kept by a responsible person, at the display location, for use in removal of the vehicles in the event of an emergency.
- E. All vehicles must be approved and tagged by the Fire Marshal before they can be placed inside the building.
- F. Approval tags must remain on the vehicle during the entire display or the vehicle must be removed from the premises.

## **11. Indoor Rides/Fun Houses**

- A. An approved automatic smoke detection system is required.
- B. Activation of any one alarm device shall sound an alarm in the building at a constantly supervised location. Manual operation of the building alarm shall be available at the location.
- C. Activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector monitored by an alarm verification zone, the sprinkler system, or other approved detection device shall automatically:
  - i. Stop confusing sounds and visual effects and activate a prerecorded message,
  - ii. Activate an approved directional exit marking, and
  - iii. Cause illumination of the exit path with light not less than one foot candle at the walking surface.