



DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Inspection & Life Safety Education
Fire Code Requirements for
Haunted House Occupancies

1551 Baylor Street, Suite 400
Telephone: (214) 670-4319
FAX: (214) 670-4324

This checklist provides some of the basic regulations governing the operation of **Haunted House Occupancies**. It is not possible to cover all regulations. If you have a particular question of 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.

1. A valid certificate of occupancy from Building Inspection is required.
2. The following permits from Dallas Fire-Rescue are required. All materials and equipment used must be approved by the Fire Marshal prior to the event.
 - a. Open flames, candles and burning or smoke emitting materials
 - b. Special effects materials, pyrotechnics and fireworks
 - c. Tents or canopies (400 square feet or greater). Permits from Building Inspection (214/ 948-4480) and Special Events Office (214/ 939-2701) may also be required.
 - d. Amusement buildings, carnivals, and fairs. Other permits may apply. Contact Dallas Fire-Rescue for more information.
3. Exit doors shall be maintained in proper working order and unlocked at all times when the building is occupied. Exit ways shall be clear of obstructions. Dead-end corridors longer than 20 feet are prohibited.
4. Directional exit marking and exit signs shall be in accordance with the Building Code. Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times.
5. Haunted houses with an occupancy load of 50 or more, i.e., 350 square feet or greater, shall have panic hardware on all exit doors. Other types of latching devices or locks are prohibited.
6. Decorations shall not visually obstruct exit doors, exit lights, fire alarms, hose cabinets, standpipes, fire extinguishers, or any other life safety equipment.
7. Compressed gas cylinders shall be secured to prevent cylinders from falling or being knocked over.
8. Fire lanes shall be properly marked and clear of obstructions.
9. Smoking is prohibited and "NO SMOKING" signs shall be posted throughout.
10. Heating devices shall be installed in accordance with the Building and Mechanical Codes.
11. Electrical wiring of a temporary nature shall be installed in accordance with the Electrical Code.
12. Drapes, curtains and other decorative materials shall be flame retardant.
13. Haunted houses shall be under the constant supervision of a competent adult. An approved method of notifying the Fire-Rescue Department in the event of an emergency shall be provided, i.e. telephone, a monitored fire alarm system, or other approved mean. (Available for staff and public.)
14. An approved automatic fire alarm system is required. Prior to the installation of the system, plans must be submitted for review by fire protection engineers in the Office of Development Services. (A plan review fee is required.) The system must also be tested and approved by Dallas Fire-Rescue Department personnel. Immediately notify Dallas Fire-Rescue at 214-670-4319 if fire alarm system becomes non-operational.
 - A. 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.
 - B. Activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector monitored by an alarm verification zone, the sprinkler system, or other approved fire detection device shall automatically:
 - i. Cause illumination of the exit path with light of not less than one foot-candle at the walking surface,
 - ii. Stop confusing sounds and visual effects,
 - iii. Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency, and
 - iv. Activate a prerecorded message, clearly audible throughout the building, in conjunction with distinctive alarm signals.
15. One 2A-10BC rated fire extinguisher shall be provided for every 3,000 square feet of floor area and within 75 feet of travel.
16. Remove combustible waste from the building each day.