



# HARRIS COUNTY FIRE CODE CODEWORD



The Codeword is used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to make clear acceptable practice.

**Issue Date:** March 22, 2010

**Subject:** *Festival and Event Temporary Structures*

**Applicable Codes:** Harris County Fire Code Section FMO 316.1 and IFC 2006, Chapter 24.

**Question:** Do I need a permit to erect temporary structures (tents) for events such as cook-offs, festivals, banquets, church services, etc.?

**Answer:** Harris County requires a permit, and inspection, for temporary structures (membrane structures, tents or canopies) of 150 sq. ft. or more erected for Events and Festivals. Structures of this size or greater must be permitted and inspected per IFC 2006 Chapter 24.

Event related, structures of any size, including tents and canopies of private vendors shall be compliant with the above codes and will be inspected by the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

An Express Fire Code Application shall be submitted for permit, at the Harris County Permits, Fire Code section. [http://hcpid.org/permits/fc\\_express\\_lease.html](http://hcpid.org/permits/fc_express_lease.html)

An event layout (site plan) must be submitted with the application for permit and shall show all structures operated by the event organizer, the proposed layout for private vendors, and emergency personnel access (Fire Lanes) for the entire event site. Adequate separation from existing permanent structures shall be shown.

Floor plans for each temporary structure shall be provided showing, UL flame spread listings for structure fabrics or documentation meeting flammability performance criteria of NFPA 701. The use of the structure shall be shown along with exits, exit signs, fire extinguisher types and locations, etc. Cooking and food preparation areas shall be called out showing dimensions, separation distances, and proper fire extinguisher ratings and compliant cooking fuel systems.

The event organizer is responsible to inform private vendors of the inspection and compliance requirements. Non-compliant vendors will be given a specific amount of time to become compliant.

Qualified standby personnel and/or crowd managers may be required by order of the Fire Marshal and/or Building Official.

Building Official  
Harris County, TX

Fire Marshal  
Harris County, TX