Tent Guidelines

1.) Tent permits are good for no more than 7 days unless otherwise approved by the city.
2.) Tents shall not cover more than 75% of the property. (NFPA 101, 11.11.4.1)
3.) All permitted assembly, merchandise tent over 900 sq/ft, or cooking tents shall have a current (within the last 12 months) Florida or Other State Certified minimum 2A:10B:C portable fire extinguisher. The definition of an assembly tent is when more than 50 people could congregate under.
4.) All cooking tents (regardless of size) shall also require a current Florida or Other State Certified Class ‘K’ portable fire extinguisher in addition to the 2A:10B:C extinguisher. ***Fire extinguishers purchased from many retail stores are not certified and will not be accepted. (NFPA 101, 11.11.5)
5.) All permitted assembly, merchandise tent over 900 sq/ft., and cooking tents must be Flame Retardant and shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria specified by NFPA 701. All tents must be certified by an approved testing agency and the vendor shall provide evidence of the flame spread certification. Keep the tag on the tent visible when setting up the tent for ease of inspection. (NFPA 101, 11.11.2.1)
***Non-flame retardant tent fabrics or materials such as retail store camping tents or tarps do not meet the NFPA 701 Standard and will not be accepted.
6.) “Cooking Tents” must be located a minimum of 4 feet away from buildings and a minimum of 10 feet away from any “Public Use Tent” which is defined as “If the public can enter under the tent to congregate, sit, view merchandise, or any other activity that allows anyone from the public to enter under the covered tent area.” All cooking tents must provide a space no less than 18” from the cooking surface to the location where someone could be walking by or ordering food. (NFPA 101, 11.11.3.3)
7.)When a cooking tent is placed near the sidewalk, the tent must be 4’ from the sidewalk to allow the flow of people along the public right of way.
8.) All hood suppression systems, including those located in mobile trailers shall be currently certified. All cooking equipment must be in good working condition and adhere to the testing agency label that certified the equipment.
9.) “Cooking” tents shall be arranged as close as possible to the sample arrangement in Diagram “A”. The intent is to keep the cooking appliances away from the public and to ensure that Gas Cylinders are secured at all times. LP Gas Cylinders should be located a minimum of 5’ away from the tent.
10.) Electrical Fire Safety used for temporary wiring, extension cords, overloaded circuits, etc… will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for compliance. A temporary power pole may be required at the discretion of city personnel. All equipment used during the event must be in good, safe working condition, and UL listed for the proposed use.

This is only a summary of the guidelines. During the inspection process and at any time during the event, if a situation is deemed “unsafe” by a fire inspector, code enforcement personnel, police officers, or Permits and Licensing personnel, it will be required to be corrected immediately. If this is not done, the permit may be revoked at the discretion of the Building Official or designee. All tent types and locations on such property shall be in accordance with the master plan approved by the city commission.

Public Safety is our foremost concern. We wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable event. If you have any questions you may contact the Permits and Licensing Division at 386 671-8140 or the Fire Department at 386-671-4000.