



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Fire/EMS Department Headquarters

Office of the Fire Chief

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

March 13, 2019

Jackie Brown, Director
Planning, Housing & Economic Development Committee
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Director Brown:

The following are Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department's response to CB-004-2019 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING FARMER'S MARKETS OPERATIONS.

The Farmer's Market community has sought relief from what some of them feel are onerous regulations enforced by the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department and the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE). The Fire/EMS Department concerns are as follows:

- 1) Item #9 - Requires all cooking vendors to either visit the Office of the Fire Marshal in advance of any vending or have the Fire Marshal visit their location to have their tent(s) and propane approved in advance. Generally, we charge for these inspections. The vendors need to be prepared to pay a fee for this certificate of approval.
- 2) Also, in Item #9, the County Code requires NFPA 701 tents. The Fire/EMS Department does not accept the California Fire Marshal Title 19 certification.
- 3) Item #10 - The County Code requires NFPA 701 compliant tents for all tents erected in commerce. Although the threat level is minimal at these Farmer's Markets, our regulations have to capture all scenarios. Cooking tents are required to be separated from all other tents by 10'.
- 4) Item #11 - Should be reviewed by DPIE. The 24 lbs. would only be appropriate for a very small tent, which is a DPIE Building Code requirement. This proposed legislation says all tents only need 24 lbs., when in reality, a larger tent will require additional weighting, as approved by DPIE.
- 5) Item #12 - States that Farmer's Markets do not need structural or electrical permits. Large tents and large generators will need additional comments and ultimate approval of DPIE.

9201 Basil Court, 4th Floor East
Largo, Maryland 20774

VOICE - (301) 883-5200 FAX - (301) 883-5212 TDD - (301) 925-5167



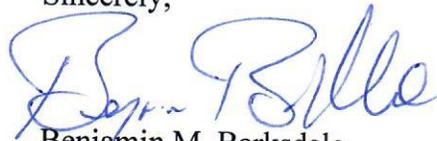
Jackie Brown, Director

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The Fire/EMS Department has worked with the Farmer's Market community for several years to address their concerns. Vendors and market managers have become more familiar with our regulations (attached) and have also become more compliant each year. We would still ultimately perform a fire inspection of all of these markets because it is a requirement to obtain a UTZ permit from DPIE, which all markets must have. The Fire/EMS Department has concerns about this legislation. It is suggested that DPIE and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will need to review CB-004-2019, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Barksdale".

Benjamin M. Barksdale
Fire Chief

BMB/dld

Attachment – PGC Fire-EMS Dept – OFM FPLS – Fairgrounds, Festivals and Special Events



Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department

Office of the Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention and Life Safety Inspections

Fire Services Building
6820 Webster Street
Landover, MD 20784
301-583-1830

FAIRGROUNDS, FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

This information is a summary of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department Office of the Fire Marshal interpretations of County, State, and National codes related to Special Events such as fairgrounds, festivals, farmer's markets and other similar outdoor gatherings or public assemblies. This information applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances. (Revised June 14, 2018)

Code References:

- NFPA-1 Fire Code (as amended by the State of Maryland Fire Prevention Code)
- NFPA-10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers
- NFPA-101 Life Safety Code (as amended by the State of Maryland FPC)
- NFPA-96 Standard for Ventilation, Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations
- NFPA-58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code

General Requirements	Code Section
Access: The event location must be served by a road of sufficient width (at least 22') and adequate clearance (no overhead obstructions hanging below 14') that will allow emergency vehicles to enter and exit the site unimpeded. There must be adequate space for these vehicles to turn around in order to exit if the site is at the end of a roadway.	NFPA-101
Cooking: Exhaust hoods and automatic extinguishing systems (required in food trucks, food trailers, and cooking tents where the public is present) must be operable and have a current inspection tag. For additional information on cooking, see below under "Tents."	NFPA-96
Cooking with Solid Fuels: Solid fuel cooking appliances (wood, charcoal, etc.) and gas grills shall not be used within 10 feet of a building, tent, or property line and shall be protected from contact by the public with fencing, enclosures, or other approved means. A heavy metal container or cart (minimum 16 gauge) with a cover, shall be provided for the removal of ash. A 2A water-type fire extinguisher or a 1.5/6L Class K fire extinguisher is required for solid fuel cooking.	NFPA-1 10.10.6.1
Crowd Managers: A trained crowd manager must be provided for every 250 people gathered for an event.	NFPA-101 12.7.6
Emergency and Evacuation Plan: An Emergency and Evacuation plan will be needed for the event. Larger events will require a more detailed and considered plan. At a minimum, your emergency plan should include planning for severe weather: 1) Who will monitor the National Weather Service? How? 2) In the event of severe weather, how will staff be notified?	NFPA-101

<p>3) In the event of severe weather, how will attendees be notified? 4) Is there an "area of refuge" where attendees can find shelter? 5) In the event Fire/EMS or police are called to the event, who will meet them and direct them to the emergency?</p>	
<p>Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Certification: Any building that will be part of the special event that is equipped with a fire alarm or fire protection sprinkler system must have documentation of a current annual inspection from a qualified technician.</p>	<p>Subtitle 11-291</p>
<p>Fire Extinguishers: A dedicated fire extinguisher is required at each tent and at each generator. All fire extinguishers must be 2A-10BC or larger with current inspection tag. Large tents must have an extinguisher every 75'. Groups of closely-spaced smaller non-cooking tents will be viewed as a large tent and may provide the required extinguisher every 75'. A Class K fire extinguisher (1.5 gal / 6L) with current inspection tag is required for cooking operations: griddles, stoves, grills, and fryers or group of fryers (up to four.)</p>	<p>NFPA-101 11.11.5 NFPA-10</p>
<p>Generators: Each generator present at the site should be shown on the site plan approved by DPIE. Generators shall be separated from tents by a minimum of 5' and shall be protected from contact by the public with fencing, enclosures, or other approved means. One 2A10BC fire extinguisher is required for each generator. (A separate electrical permit and a third-party electrical inspection may be required for generators. Contact DPIE for more information.)</p>	<p>NFPA-1 25.1.12</p>
<p>Lighting: For events after sunset, exit areas must be illuminated.</p>	<p>NFPA-101 7.8.1</p>
<p>Propane: Any LPG containers (propane) must be at least 5 feet from any tents. LPG containers will be upright, secured in place and protected from vehicle or other damage and the public. Only DOT approved LPG containers are allowed. Propane tanks will be separated from other cooking operations and open flames by a minimum of 5'. Tank size shall be limited to 60 pounds. Total amount of LP gas on site shall not exceed 60 pounds for each appliance rated not more than 80,000 btu/hr and 120 pounds for each appliance rated more than 80,000 btu/hr.</p>	<p>NFPA-58 NFPA-101 11.11 NFPA-1 50.2.1.10 as amended by the MD PFC</p>
<p>Site Plan: When the fire inspector arrives at the event site to perform the pre-event inspection they will be looking to see an arrangement or set up of the event that matches the arrangement on a site plan that has been approved and stamped by the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement.</p>	
<p>Stages: Each stage present at the event should be shown on the site plan approved by DPIE. Any stage higher than 24" must have hand rails installed. There can be no storage under the stages or grandstands. (A structural inspection from a third party structural engineer may be required for stages. Contact DPIE for more information.)</p>	<p>NFPA-101 12.4.6</p>
<p>Use and Occupancy Permit: A current Use and Occupancy permit must be posted or available for inspection at the site.</p>	

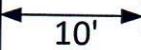
Tents:	Code Section
Tents in General: Each tent or canopy, regardless of size, should be shown on the event site-plan submitted to and approved by DPIE. (Tents may require a third party structural inspection. This inspector will need plans or drawings for the tent showing erection/installation requirements. Contact DPIE for more information.)	
Tent Flame Resistance: All tents, canopies or tarps must be NFPA 701 compliant and bear a label sewn to each tent, canopy, or tarp showing it is NFPA 701 compliant or documentation of NFPA 701 compliance that can be definitively linked to the tent must be provided. NFPA 701 is a national testing standard from the National Fire Protection Association that certifies that the fabric of a tent or canopy has been tested for flame resistance. Please ensure any tent you rent or purchase will meet this standard.	NFPA-101 11.11
Tent Spacing: Aisles between tents used for pedestrian passage or egress should be a minimum of 10' wide between the stakes. Tents less than 1200 square feet in a fairground or street festival setting need not be separated if all other safeguards are in place. In other words, a row of vendor tents can be side by side as long all other safety requirements proscribed here are met. Tents must be a minimum of 10' from any structure. A 10' area around the tent should be cleared of combustibles.	NFPA-1 25.2.3
Tents Used for Cooking: All cooking equipment, which produces grease-laden vapors, shall be equipped with an UL 300 extinguishing system and exhaust system if located in a tent where the public is permitted. Equipment producing grease-laden vapors is not required to have an extinguishing / exhaust system if the tent accommodating this equipment is a designated cooking tent with no public access and separated from other tents, structures and vehicles by a minimum of 10 feet.	NFPA-1 50.2.10.1.1 as amended by the MD State Fire Prevention Code
Tent Exits: Exit signs are required if exits are not obvious (tent having 4 sides.) Plastic or cardboard exits signs are acceptable. If the tent is an assembly to be used at night, emergency lighting is required.	LSC-101 7.10.6
Tents – No Smoking: Smoking in tents is prohibited.	NFPA-101 4.2.1



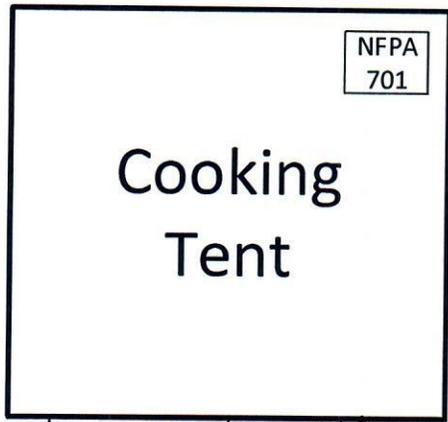
Canopy and sides with NFPA 701 label affixed



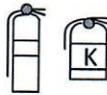
One Fire Extinguisher
2A:10BC or larger



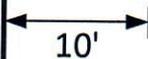
Required Separation:
0' from other vendors
10' from tents with cooking



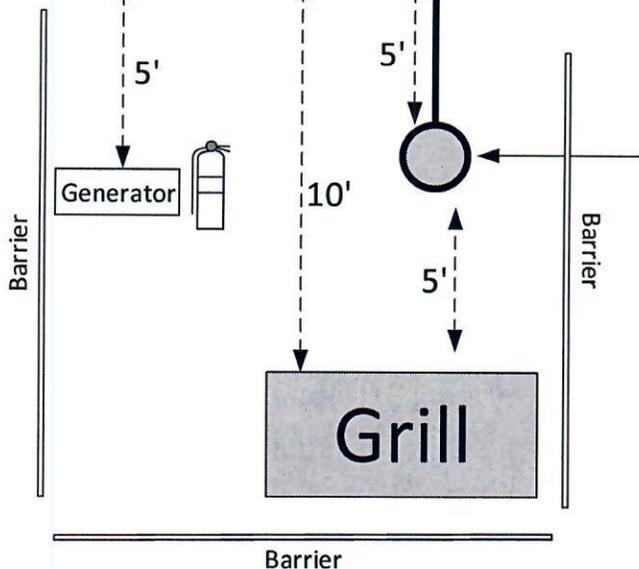
Canopy and sides with NFPA 701 label affixed



One 2A:10BC or larger and one 1.5 Gal/6L Class K Fire Extinguisher



Required Separation:
10' from other tents, structures, and vehicles



Propane tanks 5' from tent and ignition sources, secured and upright

Grills 10' from the tent

Generators 5' from the tent

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE



TO: Appropriate Agency (checked below)

FROM: Jackie Brown, Director
Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee

Date: March 12, 2019

Pending Legislation:

CB-004-2019	

The legislation indicated above is now before the Prince George's County Council. Please have appropriate staff review and comment on the effective date, as well as the impact on your department's operation or budget. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee anticipates this item being considered on the **March 21, 2019** Committee Agenda. The Committee worksession is tentative at this time; please contact Charlotte Aheart, PHED Administrative Aide at 301-952-4199 to confirm date, time and location of the Committee Meeting.

Oral testimony will be accepted on legislative matters the **first time** the bill is before the committee; subsequent meetings will be limited to discussion by staff and Committee members, unless otherwise determined by the Chair.

In replying, please refer to the legislation number listed above and address your written comments to: Council Member Dannielle Glaros, Committee Chair.

Please send your written comments to Jackie Brown, PHED Director *on or before* **March 19, 2019**. Comments may be mailed, e-mailed or faxed.

If you have any questions regarding the legislation, please contact Jackie Brown, Committee Director at 301-952-3718. Thank you for your cooperation.

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
CAB 2nd Floor
Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772
Fax: 301-952-3499
E-Mail: jwbrown@co.pg.md.us or cdaheart@co.pg.md.us

The following recipients have been sent by email, the above noted legislation for referral comments:

X	Legislative Aide to Council Member	X	Soil Conservation
	Michelle Garcia, District 1	X	M-NCPPC
	Alison Flores, District 2		Community College
X	Aimee E. Olivo, District 3	X	Pepco
	Tomeka Bumbry, District 4		Parking Authority
	Tara Young, District 5	X	MNCBIA
	Nell Johnson, District 6		Police Department
	District 7	X	Associated Builders and Contractors (Washington Chapter)
	Ashley Sharp, District 8		WSSC
	Eric Bowman, District 9	X	Municipalities
	Brendon Laster, At-Large (Council Member Franklin)		
	Gerald Konohia, At-Large (Council Member Hawkins)		
X	Legislative and Zoning Counsel		Berwyn Heights
X	Karen Zavakos		Greenbelt
			Bladensburg
			Hyattsville
X	Council Administrator		Brentwood
			Landover Hills
X	Deputy Council Administrator	X	Bowie
			Laurel
X	Audits and Investigations		Cheverly
			Morningside
X	Board of Appeals	X	College Park
			Mt. Rainier
X	Clerk of the Council		Colmar Manor
			New Carrollton
X	County Executive		Cottage City
			North Brentwood
X	DPIE		District Heights
			Riverdale Park
X	DPW&T		Edmonston
			Seat Pleasant
X	Office of Law		Fairmont Heights
			University Park
X	Zoning Hearing Examiner		Forest Heights
		X	Upper Marlboro
X	Peoples Zoning Counsel		Glenarden

Revised Feb 16