



MCKINNEY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



Special Amusement Occupancies

PERMITS REQUIRED

1. An operational use permit is required for the operation of a special amusement occupancy and shall be required to pass any inspections necessary through the McKinney Fire Marshal's Office (FMO). A SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDING or SPECIAL AMUSEMENT AREA is defined as a building that is temporary, permanent or mobile that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path, or is not readily available because of the mode of conveyance through the building or structure. These occupancies may commonly be referred to as a haunted house, scare house, maze, escape room, puzzle room, or other occupancy meeting the definition.
2. Permitting is applicable to the operation of these facilities within an R-3 single family residential home in which persons other than direct family members, the general public, or where admission is required for entry.

INITIAL APPLICATION

1. Prior to the operation of any special amusement occupancy in the City of McKinney, an operational permit shall be obtained online via the online [Citizen Self Service \(CSS\) Portal](#).

REQUIREMENTS

1. Special amusement occupancies shall comply with all requirements set forth in the International Fire Code (IFC) and International Building Code (IBC) as amended and adopted by the City of McKinney.
2. Approved "Fire Lanes" and emergency access to the premises shall be provided.
3. Special amusement areas having an occupant load of 50 or more shall comply with the requirements for the appropriate Group A occupancy. Less than 50 occupants shall comply with the requirements for a B occupancy. Exit access travel distance shall be limited to 250 feet and 300 feet respectively. Exits shall be maintained clear and accessible at all times.
4. Exit signs shall be installed as required by the IBC. Where the path of egress travel may not be easily recognized or apparent, approved and listed low-level exit signs and directional path markings shall be provided and located not more than 8 inches above the walking surface and on or near the path of egress travel. Such markings shall become visible in an emergency.
5. Emergency lighting is required along all means of egress and in all assembly areas. Battery packs are acceptable as well as emergency generators if the building is to be occupied on a temporary basis.
6. Any doorway or passageway that is not an exit or a way to reach an exit, but may be mistaken as an exit, shall be identified with a "No Exit" sign to prevent occupant confusion with designated exits. Every effort shall be made to prevent occupants mistakenly traveling into dead-end spaces in a fire emergency.
7. All interior finishes shall be Class A. Highly flammable materials such as cotton batting, straw, dried plant material, certain plastics, etc. shall not be used for decorations or construction.
8. Under no circumstances shall the use of exposed urethane foam, foam rubber or similarly highly combustible "cushion" or "molded" material be allowed, unless such material is covered or otherwise protected by gypsum wallboard, plaster or other non-combustible covering providing at least a 15-minute fire resistance rating.
9. An emergency voice/alarm communication system and an automatic smoke detection system shall be provided in all special amusement occupancies. The automatic fire sprinkler system shall also be monitored, when applicable.
 - a. **Alarm.** Activation of any single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or any other automatic fire detection device shall immediately activate an audible and visible alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated, including the capability of manual initiation of System Response requirements.
 - b. **System response.** The activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector equipped with an alarm verification feature, the automatic sprinkler system or other approved fire detection device shall automatically do all of the following:
 - i. Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 footcandle (11 lux) at the walking surface level.



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- ii. Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions.
 - iii. Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency.
 - iv. Activate a prerecorded message, audible throughout the special amusement building, instructing patrons to proceed to the nearest exit. Alarm signals used in conjunction with the prerecorded message shall produce a sound that is distinctive from other sounds used during normal operation.
10. Buildings containing special amusement occupancies shall be equipped throughout with an automatic fire sprinkler system. Where the special amusement area is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an approved temporary means.
- a. *Exception:* Automatic sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary special amusement area is less than 1,000 square feet and the exit access travel distance from any point in the special amusement area to an exit is less than 50 feet.
11. Smoking and the use of pyrotechnic devices (fireworks) or open flame devices such as cigarette lighters, candles, canisters, kerosene lamps, kerosene heaters, flash powder, shall be strictly prohibited inside or around the outside of special amusement buildings or display areas. Signs shall be conspicuously posted for this purpose.
12. All wiring and electrical appliances must comply with the National Electrical Code (NEC), NFPA 70. A licensed electrician shall install all wiring. Special attention should be given to assure adequate clearance is provided between electrical appliances subject to heated surfaces and nearby combustible materials. All electrical wiring and electrical appliances shall be subject to inspection by an approved electrical inspection agency.
13. Extension cords, multiplug adapters, and non-fused power strips are not permitted. Only UL Approved circuit breaker strips or NEC approved wiring methods are permitted.
14. An adequate number and type of portable fire extinguishers shall be provided on the premises for use by the staff. At least one 2A:10BC (10-lb. multi-purpose) rated fire extinguisher shall be provided within 75 ft. travel distance to all areas. Extinguishers shall be properly mounted and located near an exit. All staff shall be familiar with the location and use of such fire extinguishers.
15. All staff shall be trained and drilled in the duties they are to perform in case of fire, panic or other emergency to effect orderly exiting. This shall include personnel specifically assigned to notify the fire department and other appropriate emergency services. Staff shall be specifically instructed to devote their immediate attention to the safe evacuation of occupants and notification of the fire department.

PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Provide a written description of the operations for the Special amusement space.
2. Plan drawings of the installation, location, and layout, to include:
 - a. Floor plan layout.
 - b. Location of all exits and emergency lights.
 - c. Location of all fire extinguishers.
3. Listing of all materials to be used and the fire rated classification of each. NOTE. Only Class A interior finish is permitted.
4. Locations of any mirror walls, laser lights, smoke/dry-ice machines, or other mechanism to confuse occupants.

SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. "NO SMOKING"- all letters minimum of 4" (red letters), white or aluminum background, readily visible to the public.

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Trash and combustible materials must be removed at regular intervals. Waste receptacles shall be provided at the site and shall be emptied regularly.
2. Combustible materials cannot be stored within 3 feet of any heat-producing appliances or a fuel or ignition source.

All requirements follow the current adopted International Fire Code (IFC) and local Fire Code amendments. This is not an exhaustive list, and it shall be the responsibility of the owner/operator to ensure compliance with all codes & standards.