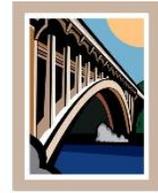




FOLSOM FIRE DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS (HAUNTED HOUSES & GHOST WALKS)

Chapter 1, Section 105.6.2 of the Folsom Fire Code states... an operational permit is required to operate a special amusement building.

Haunted Houses and Ghost Walks are regulated under the California Building and Fire Code, and Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations as Special Amusement Buildings.

Definitions:

Haunted House: A temporary or permanent building or structure, or portion thereof, which contains a system that transports passengers or provides a walkway through a course so arranged that the means of egress are not apparent due to theatrical distractions, not visible due to low illumination, are disguised, or are not readily available due to the method of transportation through the building or structure.

Ghost Walk: Similar to a Haunted House, and may include indoor and/or outdoor areas where egress to a public way is similarly not readily identifiable.

Permits:

At least two weeks before the event, a permit application must be submitted to the Fire Department. An inspection shall be required before prior approval.

The permit application must include the following attachments:

1. A dimensional site plan that accurately indicates the proximity of the Haunted House or Ghost Walk building to other structures or hazardous areas; and the path of travel from the building to a public way.
2. A floor plan showing the following:
3. Total square footage, width of exits, aisles, or interior exit pathways.
4. Location of exits, exit signs, and emergency lighting units.
5. Location of fire extinguishers.
6. Location of electrical panels and light switches.
7. Location of smoke alarms and/or fire alarm control panel.
8. Normal use of the building or structure (school, church, office, etc).
9. Staff assignments and duties.
10. Written emergency procedure

Requirements:

Emergency Planning:

The maximum occupant load will be determined during the permit plan review. A sign indicating the maximum occupant capacity shall be posted in a visible location near the entrance and staff shall manage the flow of patrons so as not to exceed this limit.

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A written emergency plan shall be provided with the permit application. All staff shall be familiar with the plan and trained in their duties and responsibilities. Specific staff shall be designated to turn off all distracting effects and turn on lights when alerted by either the fire alarm or otherwise notified of an emergency condition.

The event shall be adequately staffed to manage the occupant load and assist patrons in exiting should evacuation be necessary. Staffing level may be required to be increased at the discretion of the Fire Department.

All staff members shall carry operating flashlights and shall know the location of all exits, fire extinguishers, light switches, electrical panels, and emergency phones.

A fire drill may be required to be witnessed by the Fire Department prior to permit approval.

Phone equipment shall be readily available to call 9-1-1, or in the case of cell phones, directly dial the Sacramento Regional Fire Communications Center.

Exits:

Two exits shall be provided from each room with an occupant load of 50 or more persons. Exit doors shall swing in the direction of egress.

Illuminated exit signs, with back-up battery power, shall be provided at each exit. Additional signs may be necessary to clearly indicate the location of emergency exits.

Where mirrors, mazes or other designs are utilized that disguise the path of egress travel such that they are not apparent, approved low-level exit signs and directional path markings shall be provided and located not more than 8 inches (203 mm) above the walking surface and on or near the path of egress travel. Such markings shall become visible in an emergency.

Exit doors serving an occupant load of 50 or more persons shall not have any lock or latch other than panic hardware.

Emergency exit path lighting, with battery back-up power, shall be provided in all rooms, areas and exit pathways serving an occupant load of 100 or more persons.

Decorative material shall not obstruct, confuse or obscure exits, exit pathways, exit signs or exit lighting.

Additional exit path identification, including low-level marking and signs, may be necessary and required at the time of inspection.

Fire Protection:

All amusement buildings larger than 1,000 square feet shall have an approved automatic fire sprinkler system installed.

Fire sprinkler systems, when provided, shall not be obstructed, altered, or rendered inoperable.

Smoke detection systems, where provided, shall not be obstructed, altered, or rendered inoperable and shall be in accordance with the California Building Code as required for amusement buildings.

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A public address system in accordance with the California Building Code shall be required. NOTE: for building less than 1,000 square feet and with a exit travel distance less than 50 feet, exceptions may apply.

2A-10BC rated fire extinguishers shall be provided within 75 feet of every point in the building and must be properly mounted and visible.

Decorative material shall not obstruct any fire protection equipment or device.

Electrical:

Extension cords shall be commercial-type, UL-listed, in good condition, protected from damage, and of a rating appropriate for the electrical load.

UL listed power strips or power taps may be permitted if they are provided with over-current protection, plugged directly into outlets, and adequate for the electrical load. Power strips and power taps shall not be plugged into one another in series.

Electrical permits may be required from the Folsom Building Department.

Lighting shall be installed in a manner that does not exceed the amperage of outlets, cords, power taps, power strips, or fixtures.

Lamps shall not be placed near combustible materials or construction.

Decorative Materials:

All decorative materials used in the Haunted House or Ghost Walk shall be either inherently fire retardant and labeled as such; or treated with a flame retardant that is registered by the State Fire Marshal.

A flame test will be required on materials that are not labeled as fire retardant.

Other Fire Safety Considerations:

Care must be used when a smoke generator is used near smoke alarms. The use of the smoke generator may be restricted by the Fire Department if its use is determined to be incompatible with smoke alarms.

"NO SMOKING" signs shall be posted at the entrance and no smoking shall be enforced by staff.

The storage and/or use of flammable, combustible, or hazardous materials is prohibited.

Open flames (candles, torches, lanterns, etc.) are prohibited.

Housekeeping shall be maintained to throughout the Haunted House or Ghost Walk. Exit paths shall be kept clear at all times. There shall be no accumulation of waste materials.