



# CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fire Prevention Bureau

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105.8.p.2

**TITLE: SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS**

**SCOPE:** This guideline applies to any temporary or permanent building, or portion thereof, that is occupied for amusement or entertainment and that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around, or through a course so arranged that the means of egress path is not readily apparent or readily available, such as, but not limited to, haunted houses, funhouses, and houses of mirrors. The allowable time of use by this guideline, from erection to removal of the building/space, is a maximum of 30 days.

**PURPOSE:** Standardize fire department requirements relating to the permitting of Special Amusement Buildings.

### **SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

At the time of permit application, three (3) sets of plans, drawn to an indicated scale, must be submitted for review and approval. Permit fees for this type of submittal vary. The standard permit fee is due upon submittal. Please see the **Clark County Fire Department Permit and Service Fee Schedule** for specific information. Please check our website for plan status. Any additional fees will be indicated on the website. Once the plans have been approved and any outstanding fees have been paid, an inspection can be scheduled.

**CODE REQUIREMENTS.** The 2005 Clark County Fire Code requires that Clark County Fire Department (CCFD) permits be issued prior to the use and operation of amusement buildings having duration of 30 days or less. Duration is considered to be the period of time between the erection of the building/space and the removal of the building/space.

Prior to submittal to the CCFD, the applicant shall contact the Clark County Planning and Zoning Department at 455-4314, the Clark County Business License Department at 455-0174, and the Clark County Building Division at 455-3000, for information relating to gaining a zoning approval from those departments.

There are a number of requirements for special amusement buildings that must be verified prior to the issuance of a CCFD use permit to operate a special amusement building. Requirements regarding special amusement buildings are set forth in the Clark County Building and Fire Codes, as well as, the State Fire Marshal Regulations (NAC 477).

There are two general categories of special amusement buildings that fall under the scope of this guideline. One category is for a special amusement use that occurs in a temporary structure. The other category is for a special amusement use that occurs in a permanent structure. The requirements for each category of special amusement building are provided herein.

Submittal is required to show compliance with Clark County Building and Fire Codes. For Clark County Building Code issues, the CCFD will require that the proprietor of the special amusement-building contract with approved third-party agencies that will conduct plan review and inspections of the special amusement building in accordance with Technical Guideline 65. For Clark County Fire Code issues, the CCFD will require that submittals be made to the CCFD according to normal policies. Please see the plan submittal section for more information.

### ***Special Amusement Building, Temporary Structure***

This section describes the minimum requirements for special amusement buildings utilizing a temporary structure. Plans and submittals must address all of the requirements set forth.

At a minimum, plans submitted for approval regarding Clark County Building Code issues must address the following requirements:

1. **Automatic Fire Sprinklers:** Required for all special amusement buildings/spaces, unless the total floor area of the building/space is less than 1,000-square feet and the travel distance from all areas inside the building/space to the nearest approved exit is less than 50 feet, as measured along the path of egress.
2. **Egress System:** Egress paths and exits are required to be provided in accordance with Chapter 10 of the International Building Code. Such egress systems are required to be provided from the building/space to the public way in a code compliant manner.
3. **Exit Signs:** Exit signs are required to be installed at each exit door and exit access door. Where interior design features obscure the exit path, additional low-level exit signs and directional egress path markings shall be provided along the path of egress. Exit signs and directional egress path markings shall become visible in an emergency and shall be capable of being automatically activated by activation of the fire alarm and/or the fire sprinkler system.
4. **Interior Finishes:** All interior finishes are required to be Class A interior finishes in accordance with Chapter 8 of the International Building Code.
5. **Additional Building Service Review:** Any installation of electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems shall be permitted and inspected in accordance with applicable code requirements.

Field inspection of the completed special amusement building must be conducted by the third-party inspection agency, in accordance with Technical Guideline 65, to verify that

the construction of the special amusement building is in accordance with approved plans and applicable codes.

At a minimum plans submitted for approval for a special amusement building use permit must address the following requirements:

1. **Automatic Smoke Detection:** Special amusement buildings/spaces must be protected with automatic smoke detection devices designed and installed in accordance with the 2005 Clark County Fire Code. A contractor licensed by the State Fire Marshal must make submittal of plans and perform the installation of automatic smoke detection systems.
2. **Automatic Fire Sprinklers:** Where automatic fire sprinklers are required by review of the building plans, special amusement buildings/spaces must be protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system designed and installed in accordance with the Fire Code. A contractor licensed by the State Fire Marshal must make submittal of plans and perform the installation of the fire sprinkler system.
3. **Emergency Voice/Alarm Communication:** An emergency voice/alarm communication system shall be provided in accordance with the Fire Code. This system shall have the ability to broadcast live and prerecorded messages that are audible throughout the amusement building/space. A contractor licensed by the State Fire Marshal must make submittal of plans and perform the installation of the emergency voice/alarm communication system. This system may also be used as a public address system.
4. **Fire Flow:** Fire flow must be provided for every portable building in accordance with the Fire Code. A copy of approved utility plans showing the location of fire hydrants serving the portable building and indicating the fire flow provided by those fire hydrants shall be provided as part of the application. Utility plans must be prepared by a civil engineer registered in the State of Nevada, and must be approved by the Fire Department and the applicable water purveyor prior to submittal as part of this package.
5. **Fire Access:** Fire apparatus access is required for all portable buildings. The access lanes must have a minimum clear width of 20 feet, turning radii of 28 feet inside and 52 feet outside, and must be paved.
6. **Certificate of Insurance:** A certificate of insurance issued by an insurance company authorized to transact business in the State of Nevada shall be provided. The proprietor shall be named as the insured, and "Clark County, its agents, employees, and volunteers" shall be named as additional insured and certificate owner. The liability limits shall be a minimum of \$1,000,000.
7. **Fire Extinguishers:** A minimum of one 2A10BC rated extinguisher shall be provided. Additional 2A10BC rated fire extinguishers shall be provided so that the maximum travel distance to an extinguisher is 75 feet.
8. **Skirt:** Each portable building must have a non-combustible or fire-resistant skirt that extends from the bottom of the portable building to the ground level. There shall be no combustible materials, trash, or debris below the building and for a zone of at least 5 feet extending outward from the skirt.
9. **Multiple Separate Structures:** Where multiple separate structures comprise the amusement building/use, such structures shall be separated from each other. The

minimum separation between structures shall be 20 feet. No combustibles may be located in the area between the structures.

Field inspections to verify compliance with plans submitted for 2005 Clark County Fire Code issues will be conducted by the CCFD. A use permit will only be issued upon successful completion of inspection by the CCFD.

### **Special Amusement Building, Permanent Structure**

This section describes the minimum requirements for special amusement buildings utilizing a permanent structure. Plans and submittals must address all of the requirements set forth.

At a minimum, plans submitted for approval regarding Clark County Building Code issues must address the following requirements:

1. **Automatic Fire Sprinklers:** Required for all special amusement buildings/spaces, unless the total floor area of the building/space is less than 1,000 square feet and the travel distance from all areas inside the building/space to the nearest approved exit is less than 50 feet, as measured along the path of egress.
2. **Egress System:** Egress paths and exits are required to be provided in accordance with Chapter 10 of the International Building Code. Such egress systems are required to be provided from the building/space to the public way in a code compliant manner.
3. **Exit Signs:** Exit signs are required to be installed at each exit door and exit access door. Where interior design features obscure the exit path, additional low-level exit signs and directional egress path markings shall be provided along the path of egress. Exit signs and directional egress path markings shall become visible in an emergency and shall be capable of being automatically activated by activation of the fire alarm and/or the fire sprinkler system.
4. **Interior Finishes:** All interior finishes are required to be Class A interior finishes in accordance with Chapter 8 of the International Building Code.
5. **Additional Building Service Review:** Any installation of electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems shall be permitted and inspected in accordance with applicable code requirements.

Field inspection of the completed special amusement building must be conducted by the third-party inspection agency, in accordance with Technical Guideline 65, to verify that the construction of the special amusement building is in accordance with approved plans and applicable codes.

At a minimum, plans submitted for the Clark County Fire Department approval for a special amusement building use permit must address the following requirements:

1. **Automatic Smoke Detection:** Special amusement buildings/spaces must be protected with automatic smoke detection devices designed and installed in accordance with the Fire Code. A contractor licensed by the State Fire Marshal must make submittal of plans and perform the installation for automatic smoke

detection systems.

2. **Automatic Fire Sprinklers:** Where automatic fire sprinklers are required by review of the building plans, special amusement buildings/spaces must be protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system designed and installed in accordance with the Fire Code. A contractor licensed by the State Fire Marshal must make submittal of plans and perform the installation of the fire sprinkler system.
3. **Emergency Voice/Alarm Communication:** An emergency voice/alarm communication system shall be provided in accordance with the Fire Code. This system shall have the ability to broadcast live and prerecorded messages audible throughout the amusement building/space. A contractor licensed by the State Fire Marshal must make submittal of plans and perform the installation of the emergency voice/alarm communication system. This system may also be used as a public address system.
4. **Certificate of Insurance:** A certificate of insurance issued by an insurance company authorized to transact business in the State of Nevada shall be provided. The applicant and building owner shall be named as the insured, and "Clark County, its agents, employees, and volunteers" shall be named as additional insured and certificate owner. The liability limits shall be a minimum of \$1,000,000.
5. **Fire Extinguishers:** A minimum of one 2A10BC rated extinguisher shall be provided. Additional 2A10BC rated fire extinguishers shall be provided so that the maximum travel distance to an extinguisher is 75 feet.

Field inspection to verify compliance with plans submitted for Fire Code issues will be conducted by the Clark County Fire Department. A use permit will only be issued upon successful completion of inspection by the Clark County Fire Department.

## **PLAN SUBMITTAL**

Prior to application to the Fire Department, the applicant shall contact the Planning and Zoning Department, the Business License Department, the Building Department, and the third-party review and inspection agencies. Application to the Planning and Zoning and Business License Departments must be in conformance with the requirements set forth by those departments. Application to the Building Department and the third-party agencies shall be in accordance with Technical Guideline 65, as set forth by the Development Services Department, Building Division.

Application to the Fire Department shall consist of a minimum of the same three (3) sets of plans sent to the third-party agency and a copy of the third-party plan approval letter, as well as a copy of written emergency procedures, a minimum of three sets of plans for the fire detection system, a minimum of three sets of plans for the emergency communication system, a minimum of three sets of utility plans for fire flow purposes, and a minimum of three sets of plans for a fire sprinkler system, if required. Plans for fire detection systems, emergency voice/alarm communication systems, and fire sprinkler systems shall be designed and submitted by a contractor licensed by the State Fire Marshal.

Following plan approval, a site inspection will be conducted to verify that construction of the special amusement building/space has occurred in accordance with the approved plans and applicable codes. Fees for Fire Department related review and inspection services shall be borne by the applicant. Fire Department plan reviews may be expedited for additional fees. For normal plan review, it is recommended that application be made to the Fire Department a minimum of 60 days prior to the proposed date of building/space erection. For expedited plan review, it is recommended that application be made a minimum of 21 days prior to the proposed date of building/space erection.

Upon approval of plans, the Fire Department will return stamped plans for use during construction. The Fire Department will issue a Special Amusement Building use permit after field inspection of the installation.

### **FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM OUTPUT SEQUENCE**

The fire protection systems installed in the special amusement building/space are required to activate alarms and initiate building system responses in accordance with the Fire Code. The Fire Code requires the ability for both manual and automatic response to activation of fire protection devices. The minimum required responses are as follows:

1. Stop confusing sounds and other visual effects within the building/space
2. Activate an approved directional exit marking system
3. Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1-foot candle at the walking surface.

Activation of any single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or other fire detection device shall immediately sound an alarm at a constantly attended location in the building from which the above emergency actions can be manually initiated.

The activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector monitored by an alarm verification zone, the automatic sprinkler system or other approved fire detection device **shall automatically** perform the above emergency actions, as well as automatically activate the emergency voice/alarm communication system. The emergency voice/alarm communication system shall automatically broadcast a prerecorded message, clearly audible throughout the special amusement building/space, 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 in normal operation.

The proprietor shall provide written emergency procedures and instruct all employees of those procedures. Each employee shall be provided with emergency lighting (flashlights.) Written procedures must specify what signals are transmitted to the constantly attended location, and when live messages are to be broadcast through the emergency voice/alarm communication system.

## **INSPECTIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED AND SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS:**

If approved, an inspection will need to be scheduled. To schedule an inspection, go to: [www.accessclarkcounty.com/fire](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/fire). A fire inspector will review your site in accordance with the approved plans and this guideline.

The Clark County Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) may perform testing, acceptance, and maintenance of fire & life safety systems as required by and within the scope and authority of the Clark County Fire Code.

This Guideline does not take the place of the Fire Code and does not take precedence over any Fire Code requirement or position taken by the Fire Chief. When a conflict exists between the requirements of this Guideline and the Fire Code or the opinion of the Fire Chief, the Fire Code or opinion of the Fire Chief prevails.

Technical Assistance, when required by the fire chief, will require a Technical Opinion and Report prepared by a State of Nevada licensed: qualified engineer, specialist, laboratory, or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the Fire Chief and the property owner. The Fire Chief is authorized to require design submittals to bear the Wet Stamp and Signature of a professional engineer.

Acceptance of Alternative Materials and Methods requires a Technical Opinion and Report prepared by a State of Nevada licensed: qualified engineer, specialist, laboratory, or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the Fire Chief and the property owner. The Fire Chief is authorized to require design submittals to bear the Wet Stamp and Signature of a professional engineer.