ALEXANDER COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mark Earle, Fire Marshall

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TO ALL EXHIBITORS AND CONCESSIONAIRS

The Alexander County Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for providing a safe environment for Alexander County. The Fire Marshal's Office is mandated to enforce the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code, this includes all businesses and special events through out the county. In order to provide a safe environment for vendors and public during special events the following criteria will be met.

TENTS AND AIR-SUPPORTED STRUCTURES:

1. Fire apparatus access road shall be provided and shall have an unobstructed width of not less than twenty (20) feet.
2. Temporary membrane structures, tents, canopies, air-supported, or non-air supported structures shall be located a minimum of twenty (20) feet from parked vehicles or internal combustion engines. Note: For the purpose of determining required distance, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary membrane structure, tent or canopy
3. Temporary membrane structures, tents, canopies, used for cooking shall be located a minimum of twenty (20) feet from lot lines, buildings, other temporary membrane structures, other tents and canopies, parked vehicles, or internal combustible engines. All temporary membrane structures, tents, and canopies must be stamped fire resistant.
4. Tents, air-supported, air-inflated, or tensioned membrane structures and their appurtenance shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing.
5. Combustible materials such as hay, saw dust, and shavings, shall have a minimum clearance of twenty (20) feet from any tent or air-supported structure.
6. Smoking shall not be permitted in tents or air-supported structures. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be conspicuously posted.
7. All tents, sidewalls, drops, and tops shall be of flame-retardant material, labeled, stamped, or occupant provide written documentation that it was treated with an approved fire-retardant chemical in accordance with NFPA 701.
8. All pressurized tanks shall be protected from damage and secured to prevent tip over in an upright position. Kept outside and limited to sixty (60) gallons.

HEATING AND COOKING EQUIPMENT:

1. All cooking equipment shall be of an approved type.

2. Each cooking tent shall have in place a class k rated portable fire extinguisher
3. Cooking tents shall be separated from other tents, air-supported structures by a minimum of twenty (20) feet.
4. Cooking tents shall be located on a hard surface free of all weeds and flammable vegetation.
5. Air-supported and air-inflated structures shall have the design and construction of the fabric envelope and the method of anchoring in accordance with Architectural Fabric Structure Institute ANSI 77.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

1. All non-cooking tents shall have a minimum of a 2A10BC rated portable extinguisher.
2. The fire extinguisher must be mounted or secured so that it will not fall over.
3. It must be visible and accessible, and away fro the cooking area.
4. It must be serviced within the last year, with a service tag attached.

Alexander County Health Department
Department of Environmental Health
151 West Main, Suite #6, Taylorsville, NC 28681
828-632-1000 Ext. #2 Fax: 828-632-1354

REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD SERVICE AT FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The North Carolina "Rules Governing the Sanitation of Restaurants and Other Food handling Establishments" require that certain food service operations located at festivals and special events obtain a **Permit to Operate** from the local health department before starting operation. The information in this document is intended to help you understand what is needed and what will be expected of an operator while the festival or event is in progress.

A temporary food establishment means those food or drink establishments which operate in connection with a fair, carnival, circus, public exhibition, or other similar gathering for a period of 15 days or less.

Permit to Operate: Each food vendor needs to contact the Alexander County Environmental Health Department to obtain a TFE Vendor Application. The application fee is $75.00. The application must be submitted no less than 2 weeks before the festival. Before the event starts, an Environmental Health Specialist will visit your site, to examine your set up and equipment placement. It is the responsibility of each food vendor to meet these requirements. If all requirements of the Rules have been met, a permit to operate will be issued. No food service or food preparation is allowed on the site until you have received this permit. Your acceptance of this permit constitutes agreement to keep the site as originally permitted throughout the duration of the event and that you agree to operate in accordance with all statues, rules, regulations in 15A NCAC 18A Section .2600 and any specific conditions which may be included on the permit. During operation you may be requested to remedy problems observed by the Environmental Health Specialist; prompt compliance is required.

Questions: Please contact the Alexander County Environmental Health Department office at 828-632-1000 Ext. #2 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

**** Many churches, civic groups, non-profits are exempt. Just call the number above for further clarification. ****