



FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

Title: Dance Permits		
Number: FPG-11	Effective Date: 01/01/2008	Revised Date: 03/01/2009
Code References: California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC)		
Note: <i>This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>		

Scope

Dance Permit applicants are required to comply with the Fire Code requirements listed below. A Fire Inspector or Fire Officer may perform an inspection of the facility to ensure compliance with Fire and Life Safety regulations. A violation may be cause for revocation of the permit.

Codes and Guidelines

This guideline shall apply to buildings or temporary structures including tents, which require a City of Merced Dance Permit. Locations shall be in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

Permits Required

A “Place of Assembly” fire permit is required for all buildings or rooms with an occupant load of 50 or more. Please refer to the MMC for the current fee schedule. Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 209-385-6830 for additional information.

Specific Requirements

1. **Exits**
Doors, hallways, aisles or other parts of the exit system shall not be obstructed in any manner.

2. **Exit Signs**
Exit signs shall not be obstructed and shall be properly illuminated.

3. **Emergency Lighting**
Emergency exit illumination shall be operable and tested prior to the dance.

4. **Occupant Load**
The occupant load for any buildings or rooms used for dances shall be determined by the Fire Prevention Bureau and be properly posted. The number of occupants shall not exceed the number posted for any room or building.



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5. Decorative Materials

All decorations, props, drops or other materials shall be made of approved non-combustible material or shall be treated in compliance with Title 19 California Code of Regulations.

6. Fire Alarms

All fire alarm systems shall remain in service. If during the dance, a false alarm is initiated, the permittee may be responsible for the response costs of the Fire Department.

7. Open Flame Devices

Candles or other open flame devices are prohibited without Fire Department approval and issuance of a Fire Permit.

8. Pyrotechnic/Flame Effects

The use of pyrotechnics or any flame effects, including fire dancing are prohibited without approval from the Fire Department and issuance of a Fire Permit.

9. Electrical Equipment

- a. Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap, or multi-plug adaptor and, except for approved multi-plug extension cords, shall serve only one appliance.
- b. The ampacity of the extension cords shall not be less than the rated capacity if the portable appliance served by the cord.
- c. Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.
- d. Extension cords shall be grounded when serving portable grounded equipment.