



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE
BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

DATE SUBMITTED: 4/12/2024

CODE INFORMATION

Proposed change to: Building Code Fire Safety Code
Code section(s): CSFC Chapter 31 Tents, Temporary Special Event Structures and Other

PROPONENT INFORMATION

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PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Description of change and reason for change (attach additional information as needed):

See attached supporting documentation

Proposed text change, addition or deletion (attach additional information as needed):

See Documentation attached

Supporting data and documents (attach additional information as needed)

See Attached

- This Proposal is original material.** (Note: Original material is considered to be the submitter's own idea based on or as a result of his/her own experience, thought or research and, to the best of his/her knowledge, is not copied from another source.)
- This Comment is not original material, its source (if known) is as follows:** (such as material / code development proposal from a prior development cycle or proposal submitted to model code committee etc.)

I would like to make an in-person presentation of my proposal.

Release

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Proponent's Signature

Mark Dawson

Printed Name

PLEASE EMAIL (PREFERRED) TO DAS.CodesStandards@CT.GOV OR MAIL OR FAX (SEE BELOW)

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12/29/16

William E. Abbott | State Fire Marshal
Office of State Fire Marshal
Department of Administrative Services
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Mark Dawson
Deputy Fire Marshal
Greenwich Fire Department
15 Havemeyer Place
Greenwich, CT. 06830

Dear; Bill

I am writing you to propose a review and a change in the Connecticut State Fire Code under chapter 31 Tents, Temporary Special Event Structures and other membrane structures.

In the town of Greenwich, we have seen single family occupancies turn into large scale assembly occupancies during events. In Greenwich it is not unusual to find tents set up to hold 400 to 500 people private events including weddings, birthdays, ECT. These structures are accompanied with other supporting tent structures for cooking, bathrooms, overflow areas, waiter staff service, to name a few. Fire Marshal visits made to these large-scale events have turned up with cooking tents attached to buildings, propane tanks inside and adjacent to the tent, and emergency exits which pass through the cook tents. These are all violations to our code, however, since it's a single-family home we do not inspect them.

These events draw concern for the safety of all those attending these types of events. The inspection process which is outlined in our code, specifically addresses these types of violations. In this situation, once applying for a special event, the single-family occupancy has begun a change of use for that property for the duration of said event. Once the special event has been approved it switches a residence to an assembly property based on the building application to erect these types of structures. Our definitions outlined along with our state training supports this change in the code. Once the application is filed in our office the state fire code supports an inspection by the local fire marshal in all other occupancy classifications to assure the event meets the state fire code. I have outlined the code language along with a code path to support the change.

Definitions of 1 and 2 family dwelling

Reference:

Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code 2022

3.3.199.25 page 1-35 One and two-family dwelling. One and two-family dwellings include buildings containing not more than two dwelling units in which each dwelling unit is occupied by members of a single family with not more than six (6) outsiders, if any, accommodated in rented rooms.

3.3.183.22.1 One- and two-family dwelling unit. A building that contains not more than two dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities.

Connecticut State Fire Safety Code 2022

3.3.198.13* page 101-13 Residential Occupancy. An occupancy that provides sleeping accommodations for purposes other than health care or detention and correctional.

Definitions for "change of Occupancy"

2021 International Fire Code 2022/ Connecticut State Fire Safety Code

Definitions;

[A] Change of Occupancy. **Either** of the following shall be considered as a change of occupancy where this code requires a greater degree of safety, accessibility, structural strength, fire protection, means of egress, ventilation or sanitation than is existing in the current building or structure:

1. Any change in the occupancy classification of a building or structure.
2. Any change in the purpose of, or a change in the **level of activity within**, a building of structure.

ODEM- Spring 2022 Career Development

Tent Inspections- Outdoor Dining Case Study

1. Permit Required page 7 slide 19- Apply to All Temporary tents and membrane structures shall comply with this section.
2. All tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet require a building permit.
 - a. Exception 1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
 - b. Exception 2. Tents open on all sides that comply with all of the following:
 - 2.1 Individual tents having a maximum size of **700 SQ FT**
 - 2.2 The aggregate area of **multiple tents** placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet, not exceeding **700 total**.
 - 2.3 A minimum clearance of **12 feet** to all other structures and other tents.
3. Exception 3. **Tents 900 sq. ft and smaller** when occupied by **few than 50 people**, which have **no heating appliances or electrical service** and are erected for fewer than 72 hours.

Location for the change

2021 International Fire Code portion of the 2022 Connecticut State Fire Safety Code Chapter 31

States in section 3103.3 Outdoor assembly event pg. 31-1, Section 3103.7 Inspections. The entire tent, air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structure system shall be inspected at regular intervals, but not less than two times per permit use period, by the permittee, owner or agent to determine that the installation is maintained in accordance with this chapter.

Exception: Permit use periods of less than 30 days

Remove the Exception and add;

Inspections shall include all tent structures erected for the use of special events which meet the change of use definition outlined in the code. Temporary structures that exceed the tent capacity of

50 persons no matter of the type of occupancy shall be inspected. All structures will comply with all sections of this code.