

CITY OF HENDERSON FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINE

Effective Date: February 4, 2019

HFS# 012

Supersedes: All Others

Updated: July 11, 2023

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TITLE: HAUNTED HOUSES

PURPOSE:

The following information is a synapse of the code requirement for the construction/erection/placement of haunted houses/trailers. Specific incidences or specifics may require additional code requirements.

REFERENCE: 2021 IFC & 2021 IBC, as amended

RULES & REGULATIONS:

- I. **DEFINITION:** A Special Amusement Building is any temporary or permanent building or portion thereof that is occupied for amusement, entertainment or educational purposes and that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around or over a course in any direction so arranged that the means of egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or is intentionally confounded or is not readily available because of the nature of the attraction or the mode of conveyance through the building or structure. **(IFC § 202 & IBC § 411.2)**
- II. **OCCUPANCY:** All haunted house/trailers shall be classified into the appropriate occupancy group.
 - A. Special Amusement Building with an occupant load of 50 or more shall be classified as an A-3 Occupancy. **(IFC § 202 & IBC § 411)**
 - B. Special Amusement Building with an occupant load of less than 50 shall be classified as a B Occupancy. **(IFC § 202 & IBC § 411)**
 - C. For amusement buildings or portions thereof without walls or a roof and constructed to prevent the accumulation of smoke, please see specific requirements of the code, or make an appointment with a plan reviewer. **(IFC § 907.2.12 & IBC § 411.1)**
- III. **ACCESS:** Approved vehicle access for firefighting shall be provided. The fire lane shall provide clear and unobstructed access not less than twenty-four (24) feet in width and shall extend to within one hundred fifty (150) feet of all portions of the building exterior. **(IFC§ 503.1.1 & 503.2.1, as amended)**
- IV. **HYDRANTS:** Approved water supply for firefighting shall be provided. A fire hydrant shall be provided within one hundred fifty (150) feet of the building. **(IFC § 3313)**

- V. AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTION:** Special amusement buildings shall be equipped with an automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 907 and the Fire Code. **(IFC § 907.2.12 & IBC § 411.3)**
- A. **Alternate Device.** In areas where ambient conditions will cause a smoke detection system to alarm, an approved alternative type of automatic detector shall be installed. **(IFC § 907.2.12 Exception & IBC § 907.2.12)**
- B. **Alarm.** Activation of any single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or any other automatic fire detection device shall immediately activate an audible and visible alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated, including the capability of manual initiation of requirements in Section 907.2.12.1.
- C. **System response. (IFC § 907.2.12.2)**
The activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector equipped with an alarm verification feature, the automatic sprinkler system or other approved fire detection device shall automatically:
1. Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 foot-candle (11 lux) at the walking surface level;
 2. Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions;
 3. Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency; and
 4. Activate a prerecorded message, audible throughout the special amusement building, instructing patrons to proceed to the nearest exit. Alarm signals used in conjunction with the prerecorded message shall produce a sound which is distinctive from other sounds used during normal operation.
- VI. AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS:** Special amusement buildings shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13. Where the special amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an approved temporary means. **(IFC § Table 903.2.11.6, 903.3.1.1, 914.7)**
- Exception:** Automatic fire sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary special amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet and the travel distance from any point to an exit is less than 50 feet.
- VII. EMERGENCY VOICE/ALARM COMMUNICATION SYSTEM:** An emergency voice/alarm communication system, which is also allowed to serve as a public address system, shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2 and be audible throughout the entire special amusement building. Shall be installed in accordance with 2019 NFPA 72, **(IFC § 907.2.12.3 & IBC § 411.4)**
- VIII. EXITS:** Exits shall be provided as follows: **(IBC Chapter 10):**

- A. Means of egress shall have 84-inch clear ceiling height.
- B. Two exits are required when the floor area exceeds 750 SF.
- C. Persons may exit through adjoining rooms until a cumulative occupant load of ten is reached. At that point those persons may exit through one additional room.
- D. Changes in elevation of less than 12-inches shall be by sloped floor. If the slope of the floor exceeds 1:20, provide a ramp.
- E. Illuminated per system response in paragraph above.
- F. Doors, door hardware, guards, stairs, ramps, elevators, turnstiles, security devices, etc. shall comply with all codes.

IX. EXIT MARKINGS: Exit signs shall be installed throughout amusement buildings. Such markings shall become visible in an emergency. The directional exit marking shall be activated by the automatic fire detection system and the automatic sprinkler system in accordance with system response outlined in paragraph above. Exit signs shall have a battery back-up system. **(IBC § 411.6 & Chapter 10)**. Locate exit markings in the following areas:

- A. At required exit or exit access doorways.
- B. Additional approved directional exit markings shall also be provided when required by the code or deemed necessary.
- C. 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 above the walking surface and on or near the path of egress travel.

X. INTERIOR FINISH: The interior finish shall be Class A: flame spread 0-25; smoke developed 0-450. Combustible material shall be flame resistant. Foam plastics shall not be used other than trim. **(IFC § 803.1.2 & IBC § 411.7)**

XI. ACCESSIBILITY: Haunted houses/trailers shall be accessible as follows: **(IBC Chapter 11 and ICC/ANSI E1.21-2013)**

- A. Accessible route shall be provided as follows:
 - 1. From public way to accessible entrance.
 - 2. From accessible parking to accessible entrance.
 - 3. Between all accessible buildings and facilities on a site.
 - 4. Throughout the haunted house/trailer, including from accessible entrance to each accessible means of egress.
- B. Platform lifts shall not be used as a portion of the accessible route. **(IBC § 1109.5)**
- C. Accessible parking and passenger loading facilities per Section 1106 shall be provided. **(IBC § 1106.9)**

- D. Toilets and other features and facilities shall be accessible per Section 1110.
(IBC § 1110.2)

XII. ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS: An electrical permit is required. All electrical work shall comply with the 2011 National Electrical Code and must be inspected, including any other source of power such as a generator.

The items listed in this document are basic information only, and do not contain all code requirements. Codes are subject to change. Additional requirements may apply.
