



Tent Safety Tip Sheet



This tip sheet provides important safety information on the setup and use of tents on WVU campuses.

- **Tents**

- Tents must comply with the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 701 requirements for fire resistance.
- All tent fabric pieces must have a permanently affixed label verifying the tent fabric's compliance with NFPA 701, the tent manufacturer's identification, and serial number of the tent.
 - **NOTE:** The State Fire Marshal may inspect your tent for compliance at any time it is set up for use on WVU property.
- Tents must be set up no closer than ten (10) feet from any building or structure on campus.
- Tent pegs/stakes constructed of rebar-type metal rods must have a safety cap on the end to prevent injury to persons walking outside of tents. Tent pegs and stakes should be located outside of means of egress from buildings and campus pedestrian walkways.

- **Gas-Powered Generators**

- Locate and position all gas powered generators so that the exhaust gases are directed away from tent interior areas, nearby buildings, or other enclosed spaces. This will prevent a dangerous accumulation of Carbon Monoxide, a toxic gas produced by gas engines.
- Some generators have built-in Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets to prevent electric shocks. If your generator does not have GFCI protected outlets you must use extension cords with GFCI devices built into them.
- Containers of gasoline for electric generators must be stored away from sources of heat, open flames, or areas of pedestrian traffic.

- **Electrical Safety**

- Electric cords should be located to minimize their exposure to rain and water on the ground.
- Electric cords should not be used if they are not in good repair, damaged or frayed. Cords repaired with electric tape, have outlets made from metal junction boxes, or are missing ground prongs on their plugs **MUST NOT** be used.
- Electric cords **MUST** be plugged into GFCI protected outlets or electric cords must have a built-in GFCI device.

- **Cooking Devices**

- ABC-type fire extinguishers must be located conveniently in tents that have gas cooking or open-flame heated buffet service.
- Large volume cooking with propane and/or open-flame food equipment should be conducted outside of tents.
- Charcoal or wood cookers **MUST** be located a minimum of (10) ten feet from tents and buildings due to toxic gases and fire hazards.
- All cooking equipment **MUST** be located ten feet (10) from buildings.
- Deep fat fryers **MUST** be located a minimum of (10) ten feet from tents and away from pedestrian traffic. Deep fat fryers can catch on fire and hot oil can cause third degree burns instantly upon contact.
- Gas cylinders and propane tanks must be secured to something substantial enough to prevent the tank from falling or being knocked over.
- All activities providing food to the public **MUST** comply with local Health Department rules and regulations. Additional information can be found at the following link or your local county health department's web site:
http://ehs.wvu.edu/home/envirolnmental_health_sanitation/campus_temporary_food_service_operations

If you have questions concerning these guidelines call WVU Environmental Health and Safety, at **304-293-3792** for assistance.