



Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Community Risk Reduction Division www.metrofire.ca.gov

10545 Armstrong Ave., Suite 310 · Mather, CA 95655 · Phone (916) 859-4330 · Fax (916) 859-3717

REGULATIONS FOR TEMPORARY HAUNTED HOUSES, GHOST WALKS & SIMILAR AMUSEMENT USES

SCOPE

These regulations shall apply to temporary haunted houses, ghost walks or similar amusement uses, where decorative materials and confusing sounds and/or visual effects are present and shall be in accordance with the 2022 California Fire Code including Appendix O, and 503.6.1 of the Local Ordinance.

Due to the original make-up of each haunted house maze, it should be noted that requirements might differ slightly from one haunted house to another.

SPECIFICATIONS

1. **Plan Submittal Requirements:**

A Site plan, floor plan, and fire protection system plans, along with the event details (event dates, hours of operation, contact information and fire safety and evacuation plans) shall be submitted electronically through the Fire Prevention Mobile portal. Account login is accessed via www.mobile-eyes.com. Note, an invoice will be sent electronically after plans are submitted through the portal. A review will be scheduled once the invoice is paid. Plans shall indicate that the building is equipped with a fire sprinkler system and a fire alarm system. Allow 30 days for plan review and approval prior to receipt of permit. Plans submitted less than 30 days prior to event shall pay the required fees for an expedited plan review. No permits will be issued for events without plan review approval.

2. **Event Dates and Hours of Operation:**

Provide event dates and hours of operation for the "Haunted House".

3. **Contact Names and Telephone Numbers:**

Provide a list of names and telephone numbers for individuals responsible during each shift and an overall contact person and telephone number for the entire event.

4. **Emergency Lighting/Exiting:**

Provide emergency lighting on a separate or independent circuit above the maze.

Directional exit signs shall be placed wherever necessary to clearly indicate the direction of egress from any place within the maze.



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Provide illuminated exit signs at all exit doors. Additional approved low-level exit signs that are internally or externally illuminated, photo luminescent or self-luminous shall be provided.

Maintain all exit ways at a minimum of 48" in width at all times.

Post the occupant load sign near the main entrance.

Maintain all exit doors in an open position (no locking or latching) during the time the public is allowed on the premises, unless exit doors are equipped with approved panic hardware. A minimum of two (2) exits are required.

The event shall be adequately staffed by qualified persons to manage the occupant load and assist patrons in exiting should an evacuation become necessary.

NOTE: To obtain an electrical/building permit, contact the appropriate department listed below:

City of Citrus Heights	-	(916) 727-4760
City of Rancho Cordova	-	(916) 851-8760
Sacramento County	-	(916) 875-5296

5. **Fire Protection Systems (Fire Sprinkler System, Fire Alarm System, Emergency Voice/Alarm Communication System):**

A. **Automatic Fire Sprinkler System:** An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed in all amusement buildings. The main water-flow switch shall be electrically supervised. The fire sprinkler main shutoff valve shall be supervised. When the amusement building is temporary, the fire sprinkler water supply system may be of a temporary type when approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

EXCEPTION:

Automatic sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary (*less than 180 days*) special amusement area is less than 1,000 square feet and the exit access travel distance from any point in the special amusement area to an exit is less than 50 feet.

All walls used for the maze corridors shall be open at the top unless fire sprinklers are installed below the ceiling in the maze corridor. This detail shall be provided on the floor plans submitted. Any modifications to the fire sprinkler system will require an additional plan submittal by licensed C-16 contractor.



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B. Fire Alarm System:

An approved smoke detection system shall be installed in amusement buildings in accordance with the 2022 California Building Code/California Fire Code.

EXCEPTION:

Single station smoke alarms may be used for temporary haunted houses. Temporary is defined as less than 180 days where approved by the AHJ. Quantity and spacing shall be based on manufacturer's specifications.

C. Emergency Voice/Alarm Communication System:

An emergency voice/alarm communications system shall be provided. The system is permitted to serve as a public-address system and shall be audible throughout the entire special amusement area.

6. Maze Walls:

Maze walls shall be secured in a safe manner to prevent them from falling and injuring patrons or staff during tours. Height of maze walls shall not impede upon the 18-inch required clearance from the bottom of the fire sprinklers.

NOTE: In the City of Citrus Heights, the Building Department will inspect the maze wall attachment method.

7. Decorative Materials:

Decorative materials include curtains, draperies, streamers, cloth, cotton batting, straw, vines, leaves, trees (including Christmas trees), moss, netting, and surface coverings applied over the building interior finish for decorative, acoustical, or other effects shall be flame resistant or treated with approved CSFM listed flame retardant, treated per manufacture specifications.

Decorative materials are not to obstruct or conceal exit doors, exit lights, fire sprinkler system, or portable fire extinguishers.

8. Fire Extinguishers:

Provide a minimum 2A-10B:C rated fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers shall be located within 50 feet travel distance from any area or location within the building. Fire extinguishers shall be visible and accessible at all times. Fire extinguishers shall be mounted on the wall with top of the extinguisher between 3 and 5 feet from floor level. A current State Fire Marshal tag shall be affixed to each fire extinguisher.

9. Extension Cords and Power Taps:

Provide approved UL extension cords and UL fused power strips. Power strips shall be plugged directly into the outlet, and shall **NOT** be plugged into one another in a series.



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10. Building Wiring:

All temporary wiring and receptacles in the building shall be on a G.F.I. (Ground Fault Interrupter) circuit and shall be approved by the Building Department.

Temporary electrical wiring shall be secured in an approved manner to the top of the walls and all splices shall terminate within covered electrical junction boxes.

11. Telephone:

Provide a telephone on site that can be used in case of emergencies. This may be a cell phone. When calling fire dispatch for medical and fire emergencies from a cell phone in these locations, use the following 10- digit emergency number:

Fire Dispatch – (916) 228-3000

12. Address Numbers:

Provide approved address numbers. Address numbers shall be a minimum of 6-inches in height, internally or externally illuminated and contrast with their background so that they are clearly visible from the street fronting the property.

13. Smoking and Open Flame Devices:

There shall be no smoking, candles, or open flame devices of any type. "**NO SMOKING**" signs shall be conspicuously posted.

14. Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan:

A fire safety and evacuation plan in compliance with the 2022 California Fire Code, section 404, shall be included in the plan submittal for review and approval.

15. Final Clearance:

Requests for inspections shall be made a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the requested inspection time. Final clearance is subject to field inspection and necessary tests and shall be obtained from the Fire Department/Building Department **prior** to occupancy. After the final clearance and the establishment is open to the public, random inspections may be performed at any time during business hours.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please call (916) 859-4330.