



Haunted House/Crop Maze/Ghost Walk Requirements

Scope:

This guide is intended to provide safety standards and regulations for the construction and operation of Special Amusement Occupancies. These regulations shall apply to temporary Haunted Houses, Ghost Walks, Crop Mazes, or similar operations open to the public where combustible, decorative material, and confusing sounds and or visual effects are present.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this document, certain terms and words are defined as follows:

Special Amusement Building/Haunted House: A building that is temporary, permanent, or mobile that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path or is not readily available because of the mode of conveyance through the building or structure.

Ghost Walk/Corn Maze: Outdoor area similar to a Haunted House where egress to a public way is not readily identifiable.

Fire and Life Safety Requirements:

Materials and Construction

1. Highly flammable materials such as cotton batting, straw, dried plant material, certain plastics, etc. shall not be used for decorations or construction. The use of black plastic is NOT PERMITTED.
2. Avoid use of combustible material in displays. If used, combustibles must be treated with an approved commercial flame-retardant treatment. Samples of all such materials must be submitted to this office for flame tests prior to use.
3. Construction of interior partitions, cubicles, mazes, and the like shall be of non-combustible materials such as gypsum wallboard on wood or metal studs, brick, concrete block, plaster, etc. Under no circumstances shall the extensive use of exposed plywood, wood paneling or wood frame partitions be allowed where such material would substantially contribute to the ignition, spread or intensity of a fire. Use of certain fire retardant treated materials shall be restricted since many such products tend to produce unacceptably high levels of smoke when exposed to fire. In any case, interior construction materials shall be consistent with the general type of construction of the building.
4. The use of dead-end aisles or corridors is not allowed.



5. Extension cords, multi-plug adapters, and non-fused power strips are not permitted. Only UL Approved circuit breaker strips or NEC approved wiring methods are permitted.
6. The interior finish shall be Class A in accordance with Section 803.1. Flame Spread 0-25; Smoke Developed 0-450. Combustible material shall be flame resistant. Foam plastics shall not be used other than trim.
7. Use of draperies, cardboard, and flammable vinyl materials for use as interior finish or display purposes shall not be used unless they are inherently flame resistive, self-extinguishing or otherwise fire retardant treated in an approved manner as per NFPA 701.
8. Under no circumstances shall the use of exposed urethane foam, foam rubber or similarly highly combustible "cushion" or "molded" material be allowed, unless such material is covered or otherwise protected by gypsum wallboard, plaster or other non-combustible covering providing at least a 15-minute fire resistance rating.
9. All wiring and electrical appliances must comply with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70. A licensed electrician shall install all wiring. Special attention should be given to assure adequate clearance is provided between electrical appliances subject to heated surfaces and nearby combustible materials. All electrical wiring and electrical appliances shall be subject to inspection by an approved electrical inspection agency.
10. Smoking and the use of pyrotechnic devices (fireworks) or open flame devices such as cigarette lighters, candles, canisters, kerosene lamps, kerosene heaters, flash powder, shall be strictly prohibited inside or around the outside of special amusement buildings or display areas. Signs shall be conspicuously posted for this purpose.

Fire Protection Systems

1. Alarm System: An automatic smoke detection system shall be provided in accordance with the following provisions per 2021 IFC 907.2.12.

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 the following requirements.

- Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 footcandle (11 lux) at the walking surface level.
- Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions.
- Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency.
- 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 that is distinctive from other sounds used during normal operation.



2. Sprinkler System: Special amusement buildings shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. Where the special amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an approved temporary means.

Exception: Automatic sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary special amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet (93 m²) and the exit access travel distance from any point to an exit is less than 50 feet (15 240 mm).

3. Fire Extinguishers: An adequate number and type of portable fire extinguishers shall be provided on the premises for use by the staff. At least one 2A:10BC rated fire extinguisher shall be provided within 75-foot travel distance to all areas. Extinguishers shall be properly mounted and located near an exit. All staff shall be familiar with the location and operation of such fire extinguishers.

Exit Markings and Egress

1. Exit Signs: Exit doors shall be identified by approved self-luminous or electrically illuminated exit signs, permanently or temporarily wired in a satisfactory manner. Exit signs may be externally illuminated by a reliable power source. The size of the letters in the word "EXIT" shall be large enough to be seen but not less than six inches high and ¾ inches wide. The exit sign shall be of a distinctive color on a contrasting background and shall be readily apparent with respect to nearby decorations, interior finish, or other signs.
2. Where mazes, mirrors, or other layouts are designed to confound the egress path, approved directional exit markings that will become apparent to the occupant in an emergency shall be provided.
3. If necessary, low level exit signs located at or near floor level shall be provided. Consideration may also be given to special floor proximity egress path marking such as internally illuminated wiring, reflective tape or other acceptable products.
4. Each occupied floor shall be provided with at least two (2) approved means of egress, located as remote as possible from each other. Each exit and the access to reach it shall be clearly indicated and marked by directional exit signs as necessary so that every occupant can readily see the direction of escape from any point.
5. Exit doors shall be maintained in proper working order and unlocked at all times when the building is occupied.
6. Emergency lighting is required along all means of egress and in all assembly areas. Battery packs and emergency generators are an acceptable power source if the building is to be occupied on a temporary basis. Consideration may be given to the use of flashlights or other portable lighting under certain circumstances provided an adequate number of such devices and assigned supervisory personnel are available as directed by the fire official.
7. Any doorway or passageway that is not an exit or a way to reach an exit, but may be mistaken as an exit, shall be identified with a "NO EXIT" sign to prevent occupant confusion with designated exits.
8. Exit doors on rooms of occupancy of 50 or more shall have panic hardware.

Emergency Planning

1. Maximum occupant load (including staff) shall be determined during plan review. A sign stating maximum occupant capacity shall be posted in a visible location near the entrance and staff shall control the flow of patrons so as to not exceed this limit.
2. A written emergency plan shall be provided with permit application packet. All employees shall be trained in emergency procedures.
3. Emergency procedure shall include training of staff and familiarization with fire alarm tone. Specific personnel shall be designated to turn off all distracting noises (i.e., sound system) and turn lights on when alerted by the fire alarm or other emergency arises.
4. This event shall be adequately staffed to control the occupant load and assist patrons in exiting should an evacuation be necessary. The staffing level shall be determined upon review of plans and may be increased at the discretion of the inspector.
5. All staff shall carry flashlights and know the location of all the exits, fire extinguishers, light switches, electrical panels, and emergency phones.
6. Phone communication shall be readily available for contacting 911 in an emergency.
7. Customers are required to be accompanied and supervised through the event by haunted house staff and must travel as a designated group. These groups can be no more than 10 customers in size.
8. Approved "Fire Lanes" and emergency access to the premises shall be provided. The distance between the site and the nearest hydrant will be considered for approval.

Miscellaneous

1. Care and consideration shall be used with respect to smoke generation and smoke detector locations. Use of smoke generators may be restricted if determined to be incompatible with detection system.
2. "No Smoking" shall be placed at entrance and throughout exhibit.
3. No storage or use of flammable or combustible liquids, gases, or solids is allowed.
4. Portable generators shall be kept a minimum of 20 feet from all temporary or permanent structures.



Permits:

1. A minimum of three weeks prior to event start date, a permit application shall be submitted to the Poudre Fire Authority fire prevention for review. Permit application shall include the following:
 - A dimensional site plan indicating the proximity of event building to other structures or hazardous areas and path of travel from event building or area to the public way.
 - A dimensional floor plan indicating total square footage, width of exits, number of exits, interior pathways, etc.
 - Floor plan should also show location of fire extinguishers, location of electrical panels, light switches, location of smoke detectors, and fire alarm panel.
 - Written emergency procedure (see emergency planning section above).
 - Written permission for occupancy use from building owner.
 - Proof of a minimum of \$1 million in liability insurance, shall be provided.

2. A permit fee is calculated on an individual basis of \$75.00 per hour (one hour minimum). The permit fee includes a plan review and a site inspection. An onsite inspection shall be made for final approval.

Crop Maze or Ghost Walk

The safety requirements outlined above for haunted house shall apply where applicable. Additional requirements outline in NFPA 1 shall apply:

- A minimum of two employees shall be on duty to monitor a crop maze during hours of operation and at least one of the employees shall be located on an elevated platform a minimum of 10' above the maze.
- Motorized vehicles shall not be parked within 75' of a crop maze and a fuel break of a minimum of 20' wide shall be cleared between a crop maze and any vehicles or vegetation outside the maze.
- A public address system is required to make announcements during an emergency.
- No more than 200 persons per acre can occupy the maze at one time.

