

FPB POLICY 2015-1: Indoor Assembly Events

Created: August 11, 2015 Effective Date: Immediately
From the Office of the Fire Prevention Bureau – Phone (515) 283-4240



This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 314 of the International Fire Code.

The following shall apply to any indoor events occurring within the City of Des Moines (exception: 1 and 2 family dwellings).

1. Vehicles. Liquid- and gas-fueled and electric vehicles, boats or other motor-craft and equipment used for display, competition or demonstration within a building shall be in accordance with the following:
 - a. Batteries are disconnected.
 - b. Fuel in fuel tanks does not exceed one-quarter tank or 5 gallons (19 L) (whichever is least).
 - c. Fuel tanks and fill openings are closed and sealed to prevent tampering.
 - d. Vehicles, boats or other motorcraft equipment are not fueled or defueled within the building.

2. Aisle width. Minimum aisle width in a trade show or exhibition shall comply with the following:

Square Footage of Trade Show or Exhibition	Minimum Aisle Width
Greater than 15,000 square feet (1393m ²)	10 feet (3048mm)
5,000 square feet (465 square meters) to 15,000 square feet (1393m ²)	8 feet (2438mm)
Less than 5,000 square feet (465 m ²)	6 feet (1829mm)

3. Obstructions. Aisles shall be kept clear of all obstructions, including but not limited to, fixtures and displays of goods for sale, chairs, tables, product, displays, vehicles, and trailer tongues.
4. Exit signs. Exit signs shall be visible from all locations in the occupancy.
5. Exhibit construction and materials. Materials shall be one of the following:
 - a. Noncombustible or limited-combustible materials.
 - b. Wood that is greater than ¼-inch (6mm) nominal thickness
 - c. Wood ¼-inch (6mm) nominal thickness or less that is pressure-treated fire-retardant wood meeting the requirements of NFPA 703, Standard for Fire Retardant Impregnated Wood and Fire Retardant Coatings for Building Materials. The product shall be marked or labeled by the manufacturer. The product shall not be painted or similarly modified until the material has been inspected and the marking or labeling verified, or provide documentation acceptable to the fire code official.
6. Artificial vegetation. Artificial decorative vegetation shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701. Meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 shall be documented and certified by the manufacturer in an approved manner. Alternatively, the artificial decorative vegetation item shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 289, using the 20 kW ignition source, and shall have a maximum heat release rate of 100 kW (see IFC 806.2 for additional information).
7. Covered exhibits, tents, and booths. An approved sprinkler system shall be provided in covered exhibits, tents, and booths exceeding 300 square feet (2787 m²). Each level of multi-level exhibit booths shall be protected throughout, including the uppermost level where the uppermost level is covered with a ceiling.
 - a. When multiple tents are in close proximity, a grouping of tents must be separated by at least 10' on all sides to be considered separate. Any grouping of tents exceeding 300 square feet in aggregate area will a sprinkler system as described above.

8. Demonstration cooking and warming equipment or devices. Cooking and warming devices for demonstration purposes only shall be in accordance with the following:
 - a. Equipment and devices shall be isolated from the public by not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) or by a noncombustible 3-sided barrier between the equipment and devices and the public.
 - b. Single-well cooking equipment using combustible oils or solids shall meet the following:
 - i. A noncombustible lid shall be immediately available. The lid shall be of sufficient size to cover the cooking well completely.
 - ii. The cooking surface shall not exceed 288 square inches (1858 cm²).
 - iii. The equipment shall be placed on a noncombustible surface.
 - iv. The equipment shall be separated from each other by a horizontal distance of not less than 2 feet (609mm).
 - c. Cooking equipment shall be separated from combustible materials by a horizontal distance of at least 2 feet (609mm).
 - d. Butane for cooking equipment shall be limited to one 10 oz cylinder and one spare in storage, of the same size, per appliance. Storage location shall be approved by the fire code official.
 - e. Warming operations may utilize electric heaters, hot boxes, and other types of approved open flame warming devices. Open flame warming devices (commonly referred to as Sterno heaters) shall:
 - i. Be the self-extinguishing type or not leak at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute if tipped.
 - ii. Placed on a solid surface.
 - f. An ABC multipurpose portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 2A-10BC rating shall be provided within 10 feet of any demonstration or warming display.
 - g. A Class K portable fire extinguisher (in addition to the ABC extinguisher) shall be provided within 10 feet of any demonstration cooking involving grease, solid fuel, or producing grease-laden vapors.

Note: Demonstration and warming cooking may be prohibited by the fire code official.

9. Cooking for the commercial preparation of food shall be conducted under an approved Type 1 Hood.

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

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