

Huntington Beach Fire Department

Temporary Activities / Sales Lots

A temporary sales facility is permitted adjacent to an arterial highway and on all church or school sites for temporary use when approved and in compliance with the following for the sale of seasonal products, including Christmas trees, Halloween pumpkins, or a single season agricultural product not grown onsite (*Huntington Beach Zoning and Ordinance 230.86*):

- A Christmas tree sales facility shall not be open for business during any calendar day prior to Thanksgiving Day.
- A Halloween pumpkin sales facility shall not be open for business during any day prior to October 1.
- A single agricultural product sales facility shall be approved for a period of time not to exceed 90 days.

All temporary activities/sales lots shall be located, maintained and operated subject to the following regulations. Violations of these rules shall be grounds for the immediate revocation of the operator's permit by the Fire Code Official.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 **Gasoline Driven Engines** – Shall not be located inside any structure, canopies, tents, or near any exit aisles.
 - 20 foot clearance must be maintained from all combustibles
 - An electrical permit may be required for gas-powered generators
- 1.2 **Flammable Liquids** – Flammable and combustible liquids shall be stored outside in an approved manner not less than 50 feet from tents, canopies or membrane structures (*Huntington Beach Fire Code [HBFC] Section 2404.17.2 Flammable and Combustible Liquid Storage*).
- 1.3 **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP-gas)** – LP-gas containers shall be located outside (*HBFC Section 2404.16*).
 - Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of 500 gallons or less shall have a minimum separation between the container and structure not less than 10 feet.

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- Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of more than 500 gallons shall have a minimum separation between the container and structure not less than 25 feet.
- 1.4 **Tents and Canopies** – Shall be State Fire Marshal approved flame retardant. Please refer to *City Specification #432, Standards for Tents, Canopies and Temporary Membrane Structures*.
- 1.5 **Aisles** – All aisles shall be maintained at a minimum of 42 inches in width.
- 1.6 **Heating Appliances** – All heating appliances shall be Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved.
- 1.7 **Open Flames** – No open flames shall be permitted.
- 1.8 **Decorations and Banners** – The storage and/or display of decorations or banners shall be in such a manner as to not create any life safety or fire hazard.
- 1.9 **Exit Signs** – Exit signs shall be installed on all required exits and shall have the word “EXIT” on the sign in block capital letters not less than 6 inches in height with a stroke of not less than 3/4 inch. Exit signs shall be of an approved self-luminous type or shall be internally or externally illuminated (*HBFC Section 2403.12.6 Exit Signs*).
- 1.10 **No Smoking Signs** – Shall be posted in conspicuous places and be large enough to be easily read.

2. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 2.1 **Application and Permit** – Obtain an application for temporary activity / sales lots and, if required, a Fire Department permit at:

Huntington Beach Fire Department
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
(714) 536-5411
www.surfcity-hb.org

NOTE: Permits may be required by the Building and Safety Department.

- **Application Approval** – Submit application to the Building and Safety Department as well as the Planning Department for approval.
- **Unimproved Lot** – Submit application to the Public Works Department’s Traffic Engineering Division for approval.
- **Cash Bond** – Applicants proposing temporary activity / sales lots on unimproved lots shall complete and post a \$500 cash bond with the

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Building and Safety Department as well as the Planning Department after receiving site approval.

2.2 **Plot Plan** – Submit a complete plot plan indicating the following:

- Dimension of sales and storage areas with proximity to property line and buildings
- **Fire Department Access** – If sales lot or storage is more than 150 feet from the roadway, an all-weather fire lane of 24 feet shall be provided
- One (1) 2-A :10-B :C rated fire extinguisher for every 3,000 square feet. Maximum travel distance not to exceed 75 feet
- Tents or canopies
- Flammable liquid storage area
- LP-gas locations
- Generator or electrical installation
- Sales office, RV, camper, etc.
- Flame retardant application booth or area, if applicable

2.3 **Business License** – Obtain a Business License from the City of Huntington Beach Finance Department Fiscal Services Division / Business License Office.

2.4 **Final Approval** – Submit final application to the Fire Department.

- An on-site inspection is required for permit and FINAL APPROVAL.
- An appointment shall be made with the Fire Department's District Inspector at least 24 hours in advance.
- There shall be no selling until final permit approval is obtained.

NOTE: Completion of the application does not presume approval of the temporary activity/sales lot. All City and State codes shall be met and verified by the Fire Department with an on-site inspection.

3. CHRISTMAS TREE LOT ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 No person or firm shall sell, give, or offer for sale any Christmas tree or similar decoration that will be placed in **any public occupancy** without being flame-retardant treated.

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- 3.2 Only individuals who pass the State Fire Marshal requirements for “Applicator of Retardant Solutions for Christmas Trees” may sell fire retardant treated trees. Certificate must be available upon request.
- 3.3 Christmas trees offered for sale as flame-retardant treated shall be tagged with the following:
- Name of chemical
 - Registration number of chemical
 - Name of applicator
 - Registration number of the applicator
 - Date of treatment
- 3.4 The above information shall be listed on the Fire Department permit or the flame-retardant application will **not** be allowed.
- 3.5 Trees requiring flame-retardant application are as follows:
- Any public assembly occupancy with greater than 50 persons
 - Any commercial, industrial or institutional occupancy
- 3.6 The Fire Code Official may determine the number of Christmas trees allowed in any of the occupancies mentioned in section 3.5.
- 3.7 All Christmas tree flocking must be a State Fire Marshal approved flame-retardant chemical.
- 3.8 Trees are subject to a field test for match ignition. The Fire Department's District Inspector may conduct flame testing on randomly selected trees.
- 3.9 The Fire Department requires that permit holders distribute Christmas tree and fire safety information with the sale of each tree. This material shall be provided by the Fire Department (Exhibit 1).
- 3.10 Violation of any provision of this City Specification may result in a civil or criminal citation.

APPROVED: _____
Duane S. Olson, Fire Chief

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT 1

Season's Greetings!

10 Holiday Safety Tips From The Huntington Beach Fire Department

- Cut 2-3 inches off the bottom of a fresh tree and place the tree in water immediately. This prevents the sap from forming over the cut and allows the tree to absorb water.
- Use a sturdy tree holder and fill with water daily.
- Check lights carefully for broken sockets or frayed wires before placing them on your tree.
- Replace any light strings that show signs of damage.
- Keep your tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces and heaters, which will dry the tree out.
- Keep your tree out of the path of household traffic and do not let it block your exit in case you need to escape from a fire.
- Unplug the tree lights and any outdoor lights when you go to bed or leave for the evening.
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments and ornaments with small parts on lower branches where children or pets can reach them. Ornaments and other holiday decorations should be non-combustible or flame resistant.
- Do not burn wrapping paper or tree branches in the fireplace or oven.
- Dispose of trash and your tree safely, soon after the holiday is over.