



Variations and Allowances Afforded During A Declared Public Health Emergency

Overview

It is recognized that orders enacted by local, regional, state and Federal officials have direct impact on the ability for commercial occupancies to operate. The District recognizes that certain temporary allowances must be made in order to maximize operations in a commercial occupancy while still ensuring life safety. The District also understands that changes in commercial occupancy operations require time in advance of an order to prepare for compliance and time after the expiration of the order to demobilize and return to more routine operations.

Duration

The allowances and variations outlined in this guide will be afforded to commercial occupancies whenever a temporary order is announced and/or enacted by local, regional, state or Federal officials that specifically restrict activities or occupancy within a commercial structure due to a public health emergency. These allowances and variations will go into effect no more than two (2) weeks in advance of the effective date of an order and shall extend no more than four (4) weeks past the expiration of the order.

Qualifying Commercial Occupancies

Any commercial occupancy lawfully occupying a commercial space in the West County EMS & Fire Protection District or contracting with the West County EMS & Fire Protection District for fire and EMS services. New commercial occupancies will be covered by this policy upon successfully obtaining an Occupancy Permit from the District.

What This Does NOT Cover

The allowances and variations outlined in this guide in no way alleviate any commercial occupancy from following zoning or code requirements from any other Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) including the State of Missouri, St. Louis County and local municipalities having jurisdiction for the commercial occupancy.

Specific Temporary Allowances and Temporary Variations

1. The installation of any commercial temporary tent structure (tents) shall not require a permit. An ABC fire extinguisher should be readily accessible for any occupied tent.
2. An Occupancy Permit is not required for the use of any commercial tent.
3. The square footage of a tent placed adjacent to a commercial structure will not be included with the square footage of the building or occupancy for re-evaluation of fire sprinkler and/or fire alarm systems.



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4. The use of UL-listed heating devices inside of temporary tents is allowed in a manner consistent with the device's intended use and application.
5. Designated Fire Lanes may be occupied by tables, chairs or tents provided the items located in the Fire Lane are readily moveable in an emergency without the use of special tools or lifting equipment
6. The use of Fire Lanes to stage OCCUPIED vehicles waiting to pick-up prepared food is allowed.
7. The construction of any temporary barrier intended to reduce the likelihood of transmission of airborne droplets is allowed without permits.
8. The designation of directional flow for aisles and doorways is allowed without an architectural assessment and review
9. The reassignment of space within a commercial occupancy to spread out seating and/or tables and chairs is allowed so long as marked Exits are not blocked and a minimum of 36" width is maintained for all Exit Pathways.
10. The use of properly rated extension cords for the temporary transmission of power to lighting and ventilation devices in tents.

What Is NOT Allowed

1. The open burning of wood or petroleum products in a tent to generate heat.
2. The use of non-UL Listed heating devices
3. Temporary Structures built from general building materials
4. Tents constructed of construction materials (2x4's, blue tarps, etc)
5. Blocking, obstructing or removing any marked Exit from an occupancy or structure
6. Disabling in whole or in part any required life safety system in a commercial structure
7. Hanging or affixing any temporary shield, banner or sign from a fire sprinkler head
8. Occupying a commercial structure without an Occupancy Permit
9. The construction, alteration, remodeling or modification of any commercial occupancy without required Building Permits
10. Placing concrete blocks or bollards in any designated Fire Lane

This list of allowances and variances should not be interpreted as contrary to nor an attempt to encourage violation of any pending or enacted order by local, county, state and/or Federal officials.