



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY STANDARD

Title: Haunted Houses	
Effective Date: 12/01/1999	Revised Date: 01/01/2014
Code References: California Fire Code / California Building Code	
Note: <i>This standard is a summary of Fire Department clarifications of City and State Codes. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>	

PURPOSE

This standard was developed with safety as the principle objective. It is intended to assist members of the community in designing and operating a Haunted House. This standard includes requirements for the following:

- **Plan Submittal**
- **Fire Watch**
- **Exit Marking**
- **Fire Alarm System**
- **Electrical Provisions**
- **Final Clearance**
- **Supervision**
- **Safety Provisions**
- **Sprinkler System**
- **Public Address System**
- **Fire Extinguishers**

SCOPE

This standard shall apply to temporary haunted houses, ghost walks, or similar amusement uses, where decorative materials and confusing sounds and/or visual effects are present.

REQUIREMENTS

A permit to operate a haunted house shall be obtained in advance from the Fire Department.

1. **Plan Submittal**

Provide 2 sets of floor plans showing:

- the full maze
- egress system
- sprinkler system (if required)
- fire alarm system (if required)
- dimensions of rooms
- height of walls, aisles and exit widths
- location of electrical panel and switches
- location of fire extinguishers
- smoke detectors (if required)
- exit signs

It shall also include: address, dates, hours of operation, and the name and phone number of person(s) in charge. Plans shall show the entire building even if only a portion of the building is being utilized.



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY STANDARD

2. Supervision

Places of assembly shall be under the constant supervision of a competent adult on the premises during the time that the occupancy is open to the public. This individual shall be provided with a method for notifying the Fire Department in the event of an emergency (via telephone, an alarm system connected to an approved agency, or other approved means) and shall be responsible to activate overhead lighting should an emergency occur. Staffing levels shall be adequate to control occupant load and assist patrons in exiting should an evacuation be necessary.

3. Fire Watch

The owner, agent or lessee shall employ one or more qualified persons, as required, to be on duty during operating hours. Before opening, such individuals shall inspect the required fire appliances provided to see they are in the proper place and in good working order, and shall keep diligent watch for fires during the time such place is open to the public and take prompt measures for extinguishment of fires that may occur. Such individuals shall not be required or permitted, while on duty, to perform any other duties than those herein specified. See Fire & Life Safety Standard: Fire Watch.

4. Safety Provisions

All walls used for the maze corridors shall be open at the top unless sprinkler heads are dropped down below the ceiling.

All walls of the maze shall be secured in a safe manner as to prevent them from falling.

Temporary electrical wiring shall be securely fastened to the top of the walls and shall terminate all splices within covered electrical junction boxes.

Provide approved address numbers on the building. Numbers shall be of adequate dimension, (6" minimum) and contrast in color, and be clearly visible from the street fronting the property.

Provide "NO SMOKING" signs.

Candles and other open-flame devices are prohibited.

Provide a certificate stating all decorative materials have been treated and are flame retardant. Said certificate will be retained by the Fire Department. Decorative materials include, but are not limited to: curtains, draperies, streamers, foam plastics, cloth, cotton batting, straw, vines, leaves, trees (including Christmas trees), netting, and surface coverings applied over the building interior finish for decorative, acoustical, or other effects. Decorative materials shall not obstruct or conceal exit doors, exit signs, sprinkler heads, fire alarm notification device or portable fire extinguishers.



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY STANDARD

5. Exit Marking

Approved exit signs and directional exit marking shall be provided and approved by the Fire Department. All exit signs shall be illuminated. To ensure continued illumination for duration of not less than .5 hour in case of primary power loss, the exit signs shall be connected to an emergency electrical system provided from storage batteries, unit equipment or an on-site generator set, and the system shall be installed in accordance with the Electrical Code.

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

Maintain all exit doors in an open position during the time the public is allowed on the premises, unless exit doors are equipped with approved panic hardware. A minimum of 2 exits are required.

Exit requirements shall comply with the California Building Code.

6. Sprinkler System

An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be required in all haunted houses and installed in accordance with California Fire Code.

EXCEPTION: An automatic sprinkler system need not be provided when the floor area of a temporary amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet and the exit travel distance from any point is less than 50 feet.

7. Fire Alarm System

An approved smoke-detection system shall be installed. Activation of any smoke detector, sprinkler system or other automatic fire-detection device shall immediately sound an alarm at a constantly supervised location.

EXCEPTION:

1. In areas where ambient conditions will cause a smoke-detector system to alarm, an approved alternate type of automatic detector shall be installed.
2. Single station smoke detectors may be used for a temporary haunted house.

8. Public Address System

A public address system that is audible throughout the amusement building shall be provided. The public address system may also serve as an alarm system.



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY STANDARD

9. Electrical Provisions

UL approved extension cords and fused multi-plug extension cords may be used on a temporary basis.

All temporary wiring and receptacles in the building shall be on a GFI (Ground Fault Interrupter) circuit.

10. Fire Extinguishers

Provide a minimum 2A10BC rated fire extinguisher at all exit doors. Fire extinguishers shall also be located within 50 feet travel distance from any point within the building, and must be accessible.

Fire extinguishers shall have a current California State Fire Marshal tag attached.

Fire extinguishers are to be mounted on the wall between 3 and 5 feet from floor to top of extinguisher.

11. Emergency Procedures

An approved fire safety and evacuation plan shall be prepared and maintained in accordance with the California Fire Code.

Upon activation of the fire alarm system, designated personnel shall be immediately available to:

1. Shut down all conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions.
2. Cause illumination of all means of egress.

12. Final Clearance

Final clearance is subject to field inspection and necessary tests shall be obtained from the Fire Department prior to occupancy. Random inspections may be performed at any time during business hours.