



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Community Development & Planning, Building Inspections

TOPIC: Haunted Houses
September 4, 2012

This Technical Bulletin describes the minimal information necessary to apply for a building permit to construct a **Haunted House** or a **Temporary Haunted House** and obtain a Certificate of Occupancy to operate a **Haunted House** or a **Temporary Haunted House**. A **Temporary Haunted House** is only operated for not more than 30 consecutive days. This Technical Bulletin also contains general inspection information.

Building permit applications to construct a **Haunted House** or a **Temporary Haunted House** will be submitted as a **CP-Commercial Remodeling Permit**. An **EP-Electrical Work with a Building Permit** (no charge) is required for all connected electrical work. A **FP-Fire Permit** is required for the installation and modification of all fire sprinklers and fire alarm systems. A **CP-Commercial Remodeling Permit** must be issued and subsequently final inspected and a Certificate of Occupancy obtained prior to the beginning of operation of the **Haunted House** or a **Temporary Haunted House**. Additional permits may be required depending on the specifics of construction. Permits may only be issued to contractors that are registered with the City of Arlington.

The following information is required to apply for a CP-Commercial Remodeling Permit:

- Completed Building Permit Application
 - 2 Architectural Type Plans
 - Scaled and dimensioned drawings showing floor plan with all rooms labeled,
 - Wall and partition construction details,
 - Egress plan,
 - Door and hardware schedules,
 - Emergency lighting and EXIT sign placement,
 - Notes on plans indicated whether or not a fire sprinkler system and/or fire alarm system is to be installed
 - Any additional details necessary to show compliance with all applicable codes.
 - TDLR Registration Number if the project has a construction value of \$50,000.00 or more.
 - Proof of Asbestos Survey
 - A copy of the operational schedule to include the total number of days, scheduled operational days and hours of operation
 - A certificate of Occupancy application may be submitted at this time.
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- **After the building permit is issued and all required inspections have been final approved, a Certificate of Occupancy must be issued prior to operation of Haunted House or a Temporary Haunted House.**
 - **Minimum required building inspection:**
 - Construction matches the approved plans on site,
 - Installation of exit signs and emergency lights at all required exits,
 - Exits and exit access doors shall be marked by a readily visible exit sign.
 - Photo luminescent exit signs are not permissible.

- All interior finishes shall be noncombustible.
 - Corridors shall not be less than 44 inches in width.
 - The required width of corridors shall not be obstructed.
 - All exit doors shall be equipped with panic hardware.
- **Minimum the required electrical inspections::**
 - All 15 and 20 amp receptacles shall be GFCI protected.
 - ✓ Egress lighting and EXIT signs cannot be protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters
 - Flexible cords or cables must be listed for extra-hard usage, sunlight resistance and wet locations.
 - All exterior cord connections must be listed for wet locations.
 - Extension cord sets cannot be smaller than 12 AWG.
 - Types NM (Romex) Cables cannot be installed in buildings constructed of metal frame studs or where occupant loads exceed 100 or more.
 - Each tent shall have a disconnecting means installed within 30 feet and within a line of sight from the tent.
- **Minimum the Fire Department inspections:**
 - Automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 411.3 of the 2009 IBC,
 - An emergency voice / alarm communications system shall be provided (in accordance with Sections 907.2.12 and 907.5.2.2)
 - ✓ This system is also permitted to serve as a public address system
 - ✓ Shall be audible throughout the entire haunted house
 - Operational fire alarm systems (Installation requires a Fire Permit)
 - Operation of sprinkler system if installed
 - Operation of egress components which will include operation of emergency lighting, exit doors, travel distance to exits, and emergency evacuation plan.
 - Flame spread and smoke-developed index of interior finishes and decorative components to include curtains and draperies,
 - Location, size, classification, and operability of fire extinguishers.
 - Record keeping of fire drills and emergency response procedures, number of employees and their work locations, and accountability of the number of patrons inside the haunted house
 - Any life safety related issues