



Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department

3560 Nevada Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 * 925-454-2361

Haunted House & Amusement Building Guidelines

OVERVIEW

This guide provides fire and life safety requirements for small, haunted houses and seasonal school or community events held in gymnasiums, classrooms, multipurpose rooms, or portable classrooms. The goal is to help event organizers conduct safe seasonal attractions while complying with applicable fire, building, and state regulations. For larger events or activities, contact the fire prevention bureau.

These guidelines are based on the 2025 California Fire Code (CFC), 2025 California Building Code (CBC), 2025 California Electrical Code (CEC), California Code of Regulations Title 19, and local requirements for the Cities of Livermore and Pleasanton.

EVENTS COVERED

- School haunted houses
- PTA or booster club Halloween events
- Temporary maze attractions in gyms or multipurpose rooms
- Fundraiser haunted houses
- Church or youth organization seasonal events

PERMITS REQUIRED

Operational Permit – Haunted House (CFC §105.5.33)

Tent Permit – Required for tents/canopies ≥400 sq. ft. (CFC §3104.2)

Electrical Permit – Temporary power (CFC §605; California Electrical Code)

Business License – Required by respective City Municipal Code for commercial operators

Planning/Zoning Clearance – Temporary Use Permit may be required per City Zoning Code

Basic Life Safety Requirements (CFC Ch 10)

- A minimum of two exits must be available from the haunted house area.
- Exits must remain unlocked and unobstructed.
- Exit signs must remain visible and illuminated.
- Maze walls must not block building exits.
- Emergency lighting must be provided if lighting is dimmed.

Maze Floor Plan Guidance

- Maze walls should not exceed approximately 8 feet in height unless approved by LPPFD.
- Avoid dead-end corridors
- Provide directional exit signage/egress pathway lighting throughout the maze.
- Maze walls shall not restrict access to building exits.

Decorations and Materials (CFC Ch 8)

- Decorative materials must be flame-retardant in accordance with California Title 19.
- Large amounts of untreated cardboard, paper, or fabric decorations should be avoided.
- Foam plastics or exposed polyurethane foam decorations are prohibited unless properly protected.
- Decorations must not obstruct exit signs, alarms, or extinguishers.

Electrical Safety (CEC, CFC CH 6)

- All electrical equipment must comply with the California Electrical Code.
- Extension cords must be in good condition and properly rated.
- Cords cannot run under rugs, through doorways, or where they may be damaged.
- Power strips must not be overloaded.

Fire Extinguishers (CFC 906, T-19)

- A minimum 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher must be provided.
- Obtain a CA. State Fire Marshal Service Tag with service completed with the last 12 months of event end date.
- Extinguishers should be located near exits.
- Maximum travel distance should not exceed 75 feet.
- Location of fire extinguishers easily identifiable
- Staff should know the location and basic operation of fire extinguishers.

Staff and Volunteer Safety (CFC CH 4)

- Volunteers should be stationed near exits to guide occupants.
- Staff should monitor occupancy levels.
- Staff should immediately begin evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Designate Event Safety Person to contact emergency services if needed.

LPGD Safety Inspection Checklist

- Exits visible and unobstructed
- Exit signs illuminated
- Emergency lighting operational
- Decorative materials compliant with Title 19
- Fire extinguishers installed and accessible
- Maze layout allows clear exit paths
- Electrical equipment safely installed

SITE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

A detailed site plan shall detail all aspects and locations of the event including but not limited to:

- Parking Areas
- Generator
- Fuel Storage Areas
- Tent(s) and separation details
- Fire access roadways and fire lanes
- Cooking Booths, areas, and food trucks
- Property lines
- Adjacent building(s) if applicable
- Occupant Evacuation Area(s)

STEPS TO OBTAIN PERMIT

Steps	Steps for Permit	City of Livermore	City of Pleasanton
1	Obtain Business License*	Business License	Business License
2	Submit City Planning/Zoning**	Online ACA Portal	Online ACA Portal
3	Submit Fire Permit Application	14 days Prior to Event	14 days Prior to Event
4	Pay Fire Permit Fee	\$358.00 per lot	\$265.00 per lot
5	Schedule Set-Up Inspection	48 hours prior to set-up	48 hours prior to set-up

* Excludes School PTA events

** Applicants are responsible for coordinating with each city's Planning and Building Departments to determine site-specific zoning, business license, and building permit requirements.

PRE-OPENING CHECKLIST

Item	Complete
Business License Obtained	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning Clearance Obtained	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Permit Obtained (CFC §105.5.33)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tent Permit (if ≥400 sq ft)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site Plan Submitted	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire Extinguishers Installed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exits Marked & Unlocked	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspection Scheduled	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact LPFD Fire Prevention Bureau prior to opening for required inspection.