



**POLICY STATEMENT
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS**

TITLE: HAUNTED HOUSES

REFERENCE: 2012 International Fire Code, Section 907.2.12 and Chapter 31

SCOPE: This policy shall apply to all Haunted Houses in the City of Farmers Branch.

In order to obtain a temporary Haunted House Certificate of Occupancy (CO), the following requirements must be met prior to Building Inspection issuing of the Certificate of Occupancy.

- I. A complete set of floor plans shall be submitted to Building Inspection for review no less than 5 working days prior to the time that the Haunted House is to open. These plans shall consist of:
 - a. A complete floor plan showing the route of the “Haunted House tour”.
 - b. The exit routes from within the rooms, passageways, etc., to a place of safe discharge on a public way.
 - c. An emergency exit must be provided every forty feet (40') in all temporary passages or corridors and must be provided with illuminated exit lights.
 - d. During the hours of operation, required exits may not be locked and each door shall be operable from the interior of the structure without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. All exits must open in the direction of egress or be locked in an open position during the hours of operation.
 - e. Exit Signs and Directional Exit Marking: Approved direction exit marking and exit signs shall be provided. Approved low-level exit signs and directional marking shall be located not more than 8 inches above the walking surface and at the exit path.
 - f. All exits, hallways, and aisles leading from buildings are to be kept clear and unobstructed at all times.
 - g. There shall be not obstruction blocking exit doors from the outside of any building, such as autos parked in doorways or barricades across sidewalks.
 - h. No curtains, drapes or decorations shall be hung in such a manner as to cover any exit signs.
- II. A Certificate of Occupancy will be required from the Building Inspection Department.
- III. Approved fire extinguishers (minimum size 2A-10BC) one per each 3,000 gross square feet of floor area, situated so an approved fire extinguisher is within 75 feet travel distance from anywhere in the structure are required.
- IV. No open flames will be allowed.
- V. Smoke detectors will be required at the following ratio:

Smoke detectors will be required at the following ratio: One U.L. listed smoke detector for every 900 square feet or fraction thereof – a minimum of two (2) smoke detectors are required. Installation shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and NFPA – 72. National Fire Alarm Code.

EXCEPTION: In areas where ambient conditions will cause a smoke detector system to alarm, an approved alternate type of automatic detector shall be installed.

Activation of any single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or other automatic fire detection device shall immediately sound an alarm in the building at a constantly supervised location from which the manual operation of the following systems may be initiated:

1. Stop confusing sounds and visual effects, and
2. Cause illumination of the exit path with light of not less than one foot-candle at the walking surface.

VI. All curtains, walls, tunnels, sawdust, shavings, table skirts, drapes and decorations must be constructed of flameproof material, or treated with an approved flame proofing solution. (Treatment shall be renewed as often as may be necessary to maintain the flame proofing effect). Plastic sheeting is not allowed. Flame proofing solution and flameproof fabric sheets may be obtained by contacting local decoration contractors and flameproof companies listed in the yellow pages. Approval by the Fire Marshal's office will be required.

VII. "No Smoking by order of Fire Marshal" signs are required.

VIII. All new electrical, plumbing or air conditioning work performed must meet the current codes as adopted by the City of Farmers Branch. Permits and inspections are required.

IX. All employees shall be schooled in:

- a. Identification and proper use of fire extinguishers.
- b. Emergency exiting procedures, including location of light switches.
- c. Locations and operation of the manual "shut offs" for the air conditioning units.

X. Truck trailers or other similar types of containers that would create a vault-like atmosphere when subjected to fire, smoke, or toxic times may not be used for public assembly areas.

XI. Each tour shall have a minimum of two guides and each guide must have an operable flashlight.