



Fairs and Special Events Inspections

*Presented by
Raymond Walker, Jr., FM, Town of Bolton
for the*

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Instructor: Ray Walker, Bolton Fire
Marshal

Program Development: Lauri Volkert, Windsor Fire Inspector



Introduction, Goals, and Objectives

- This is a 3 hour class for Code Officials and other town officials
- Our goal is with every event is to have a safe and successful event
- Our goal for today is to provide new material, as well as reminders and reinforcement of what is needed
- We will conclude by sharing our wins, losses, and draws

Some definitions

Fairs: "a gathering of people to barter, sale of goods, entertainment, exhibition, display of goods, amusement facilities" – Webster

Special: "different from others, unique, peculiar, exceptional, extraordinary"



Based upon these definitions, what occupancies/use groups/hazards would we expect to use when reviewing these types of events?

What makes this a problem?

Temporary, flimsy, outdoors, "It's only for today," lots of citizen volunteers who think that the rules in public are the same as when they are at home.

How do we find out about these Events?

- Drive-bys
- Advertising
- Calls for information
- Complaints
- Response to an incident



- OR, maybe we have a local Special Events Ordinance
- OR, we use NFPA 1 sections 10.15.1 and 10.15.2
 - The basis of local authority is the protections of Health, Safety, and Welfare
 - Generally- set a threshold occupancy trigger

Speaking of Permits

A permit system should include

- An application
- A review
- Either return, deny, or issue
- A revocation/suspension step
- A non-applicability provision



A permit application should tell you

- Names and contact info
- Description of the event
- Rain dates
- Estimated #s of people
- Plans/narrative sufficient to illustrate
 - Parking
 - Food services
 - Potable water
 - Sanitation
 - Rubbish/water control
 - Sound and lighting
 - Law enforcement
 - Fire and Life safety
 - EMS
 - Event emergency plan

NFPA 1 10.15
Special Events, Carnivals, and Fairs

- 10.15.1 Permits
- 10.15.2 AHJ-access for emergency vehicles, access to fire protection, placement of stands, booths, exhibits, and control of hazardous conditions dangerous to life and property
- 10.15.3 The AHJ shall be permitted to order a life safety evaluation
 - Note: What if you don't?
 - Someone may ask, "Did you deviate from an adopted standard or recognized standard or an industry best practice?"
 - Result = Liability
 - Organizational or Personal

NFPA 1 Sec 10.15.3.2
Life Safety Evaluations

1. Nature of the events and the participants
2. Access and egress movement, including crowd density problems
3. Medical emergencies
4. Fire hazards
5. Permanent and temporary structural systems
6. Severe weather conditions
7. Earthquakes
8. Civil or other disturbances
9. Hazardous materials incidents within and near the facility
10. Relationships among stakeholders



CT Building Code Sec 3103

- Structures for Less than 180 days
 - Permits
 - Construction documents
 - Location
 - Egress
 - Construction
 - Membranes



Who should be at the table AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?

- Building Official
- Planning and Zoning
- Health
- Risk Manager
- Fire Marshal
- Fire Chief
- EMS
- Town Administration
- Special districts representation
- Emergency Management Director
- Law Enforcement



- Make this a team-based effort
 - Use a unified command structure, providing an opportunity for people to work together
 - Communicate – in writing
 - No surprises

Take a Break

15 minutes



Fair and Special Event Inspections

- Electrical
 - NFPA 70
- Propane
 - NFPA 58
- Utility Infrastructure
 - Underground
 - Low wires
 - Aboveground/grade level
- Parking
 - Vehicle fire?



- Combustible Displays
- Traffic
- EMS
 - On-site care (first aid)
 - Transport
- Fire Safety
 - Prevention
 - Suppression

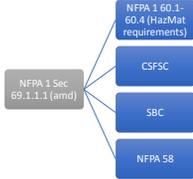


How do we get there?

Getting to the NEC



Getting to NFPA 58



Indoor Venues



- Social clubs, schools, religious buildings, etc
 - The 3 most important things to check
 - Emergency forces access
 - Occupant egress
 - Exit access corridors
- Example
 - Stouffer's Conference Building December 1980
 - Combustible interior
 - Furnishings, contents, etc.
 - No sprinklers

Special Amusement Buildings

- NFPA 1 Sec 3.3.30.10
 - *Special Amusement Building: a building that is temporary, permanent, or mobile and contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around, or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path, or is not readily available due to the mode of conveyance through the building or structure.*
- NFPA 1 Sec 10.9.1
 - *Emergency Plans Where Required: Emergency plans shall be provided for educational, high-rise, health care, ambulatory health care, residential board and care, assembly, day care centers, special amusement buildings, detention and correctional occupancies, underground and windowless structures and facilities storing or handling materials regulated by chapter 60 of this code.*
- NFPA 1 Sec 20.1.4 and SBC 411
 - Special Amusement Building requirements

Questions? Comments? War
Stories?