

## **SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS**

Special Amusement Building requirements within the Billings City Limits based on the 2012 International Fire Code and 2021 Building Code. A haunted house falls under the code requirements for Special Amusement Buildings/Areas.

### **SECTION 3408**

#### **CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY**

##### **3408.1 Conformance.**

No change shall be made in the use or occupancy of any building that would place the building in a different division of the same group of occupancies or in a different group of occupancies, unless such building is made to comply with the requirements of this code for such division or group of occupancies. Subject to the approval of the *building official*, the use or occupancy of existing buildings shall be permitted to be changed and the building is allowed to be occupied for purposes in other groups without conforming to all the requirements of this code for those groups, provided the new or proposed use is less hazardous, based on life and fire risk, than the existing use.

### **SECTION 411**

#### **SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS**

##### **411.1 General.**

Special amusement buildings having an occupant load of 50 or more shall comply with the requirements for the appropriate Group A occupancy and Sections 411.1 through 411.7. Amusement buildings having an occupant load of less than 50 shall comply with the requirements for a Group B occupancy and Sections 411.1 through 411.7.

Exception: Amusement buildings or portions thereof that are without walls or a roof and constructed to prevent the accumulation of smoke need not comply with this section. For flammable *decorative materials*, see the *International Fire Code*.

##### **411.2 Definition. SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDING**

A special amusement building is any temporary or permanent building or portion thereof that is occupied for amusement, entertainment or educational purposes and that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around or over a course in any direction so arranged that the means of egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or is intentionally confounded or is not readily available because of the nature of the attraction or mode of conveyance through the building or structure.

##### **[F] 411.3 Automatic fire detection.**

Special amusement buildings shall be equipped with an automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 907.

##### **[F] 907.2.12 Special amusement buildings.**

An automatic smoke detection system shall be provided in special amusement buildings in accordance with Sections 907.2.12.1 through 907.2.12.3.

**[F] 907.2.12.1 Alarm.**

Activation of any single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or any other automatic fire detection device shall immediately activate an audible and visible alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated, including the capability of manual initiation of requirements in Section 907.2.12.2.

**[F] 907.2.12.2 System response.**

The activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector equipped with an alarm verification feature, the automatic sprinkler system or other approved fire detection device shall automatically:

1. Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 footcandle (11 lux) at the walking surface level;
2. Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions;
3. Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency; and
4. Activate a prerecorded message, audible throughout the special amusement building, instructing patrons to proceed to the nearest exit. Alarm signals used in conjunction with the prerecorded message shall produce a sound which is distinctive from other sounds used during normal operation.

**[F] 907.2.12.3 Emergency voice/alarm communication system.**

An emergency voice/alarm communication system, which is also allowed to serve as a public address system, shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2 and be audible throughout the entire special amusement building.

**[F] 411.4 Automatic sprinkler system.**

Special amusement buildings shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. Where the special amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an approved temporary means.

Exception: Automatic sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary special amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) and the travel distance from any point to an exit is less than 50 feet (15 240 mm).

**[F] 411.5 Alarm.**

Actuation of a single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or other automatic fire detection device shall immediately sound an alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated including the capability of manual initiation of requirements in Section 907.2.12.2.

**[F] 411.6 Emergency voice/alarm communications system.**

An emergency voice/alarm communications system shall be provided in accordance with Sections 907.2.12 and 907.5.2.2, which is also permitted to serve as a public address system and shall be audible throughout the entire special amusement building.

**411.7 Exit marking.**

Exit signs shall be installed at the required *exit* or *exit access doorways* of amusement buildings IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND Section 1011. *Approved* directional exit markings shall also be provided. Where mirrors, mazes or other designs are utilized that disguise the path of egress travel such that they are not apparent, *approved* and *listed* low-level exit signs and directional path markings shall be provided that comply with Section 1011.5, and directional path markings *listed* in accordance with UL 1994, shall be provided and located not more than 8 inches (203 mm) above the walking surface and on or near the path of egress travel. Such markings shall become visible in an emergency. The directional exit marking shall be activated by the automatic fire detection system and the *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 907.2.12.2.

**411.7.1 Photo luminescent exit signs.**

Where photo luminescent exit signs are installed, activating light source and viewing distance shall be in accordance with the listing and markings of the signs.

**411.8 Interior finish.**

The interior finish shall be Class A in accordance with Section 803.1.

**SECTION 803****WALL AND CEILING FINISHES**

**803.1 General.** *Interior wall and ceiling finish* materials shall be classified for fire performance and smoke development in accordance with Section 803.1.1 or 803.1.2, except as shown in Sections 803.1.3 through 803.15. Materials tested in accordance with Section 803.1.1 shall not be required to be tested in accordance with Section 803.1.2.

Contact Travis Fenton, Deputy Building Official, at 407-237-6256 for information on the change of use requirements and the plans submittal process.