



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

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| Date Issued | 9/01/2005 | Interpretation # | 05-018 |
| Topic | EZ-Up Canopies | | |
| Code Section(s) | California Fire Code, Article 32 Section 3201 | | |
| Requested by | Eric G. Engberg Fire Marshal City of Huntington Beach 2000 Main Street Huntington Beach CA. 92648 | | |

The scope of CFC Article 32 Section 3201 regulates tents and temporary membrane structures having areas in excess of 200 square feet and canopies with areas in excess of 400 square feet.

Persons erecting tents, canopies, and temporary membrane structures containing areas less than the minimum areas regulated by code often adjoin several non-regulated (smaller) fabric structures together, or in very close proximity, to avoid code compliance.

What is an acceptable separation distance between these non-regulated temporary structures where they would be considered one contiguous structure?

As per Section 3205.2 of the 2001 California Fire Code, the minimum separation between tents would be 20 feet. However, the exception allows no separation requirements between temporary membrane structures, tents and canopies when the aggregate floor area does not exceed 15,000 square feet as long as none of the individual structures are used for cooking.

This does not relieve the users from the requirements of 20 foot separation to property lines, buildings and vehicles. Further, the canopies must be flame retardant or made flame retardant by use of an SFM approved flame retardant solution as per Section 3207, 2001 California Fire Code. Permits must also be considered as per local regulations.

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The use of EZ-Up canopies varies in each community. Consequently, local fire authorities have the ability to enact local regulations and practices to minimize the hazards associated with their use.