

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Safety.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL AGENCY



Pete Ricketts, Governor



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

22-01 Haunted Houses

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.

□ MAIN OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2027

□ DISTRICT A OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2590

□ DISTRICT B/C OFFICE
438 West Market
Albion, NE 68620-1241
Office (402) 395-2164

□ FUELS DIVISION
□ FLST □ Pipeline Safety
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-9465

□ TRAINING DIVISION
3347 W Capital Ave
Grand Island, NE 68801
Office (308) 385-6892

Background

When the Agency adopted the new Fire Code for Nebraska, it was important that areas of past concerns / multiple questions be addressed. To this end, the State Fire Marshal Agency developed new code requirements for Haunted Houses within the NFPA code section on “Special Amusement Buildings.” This document, which lists all the code language that was developed for use in Nebraska, provides a single reference point for people wanting to operate Haunted Houses in Nebraska.

Application

The State Fire Marshal Agency requirements are specific to Haunted Houses and the requirements in NFPA 1 that use the term “Special Amusement Building” do not apply to Haunted Houses. All new and existing haunted houses, regardless of occupant load, shall meet the requirements for Haunted Houses as described in 2012 NFPA 1 (NE Specific Amendments). NFPA 1 should be the code applied for Haunted Houses and not NFPA 101.

Exits / Means of Egress:

In Haunted Houses, two exits shall be provided from the building or structure and from each room with an occupant load of 50 or more. NFPA 1 20.1.4.1.1

Required exit doors in Haunted Houses shall swing in the direction of egress travel. NFPA 1 20.1.4.1.2

Exit doors in Haunted Houses shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware. NFPA 20.1.4.1.3

Means of egress in Haunted Houses shall provide a minimum ceiling height of 84 inches. NFPA 1 20.1.4.1.4

Exit marking shall be in accordance with Section 14.14. except as provided in 20.1.4.7.1.1 for Haunted Houses.[101:12.4.7.7.1; 101:13.4.7.7.1] NFPA 1 20.1.4.7.1

Floor proximity exit signs shall be provided in accordance with 14.14.1.6. NFPA 1 20.1.4.7.2

In Haunted Houses, illuminated exit signs shall be provided at each exit serving the building or structure and from each room with an occupant load of 50 or more. NFPA 1 20.1.4.7.1.1

Fire Sprinklers:

Every Haunted House, other than buildings or structures not exceeding 1,000 square feet and having a travel distance to an exit from any point of 50 feet or less shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system installed and maintained in accordance with Section 13.3. NFPA 1 20.1.4.2.1

□ MAIN OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2027

□ DISTRICT A OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2590

□ DISTRICT B/C OFFICE
438 West Market
Albion, NE 68620-1241
Office (402) 395-2164

□ FUELS DIVISION
□ FLST □ Pipeline Safety
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-9465

□ TRAINING DIVISION
3347 W Capital Ave
Grand Island, NE 68801
Office (308) 385-6892

Portable fire extinguishers meeting the requirements of 13.6 shall be provided for Haunted Houses as follows:

- (1) Fire extinguishers shall have a minimum rating of 2A:10B:C.
- (2) Fire extinguishers shall be visible and accessible at all times, and shall be clearly illuminated or marked with reflective tape.
- (3) Fire extinguishers shall be mounted so the top of the extinguisher is between 3 feet and 5 feet of the floor.
- (4) Fire extinguishers shall be located at all exit doors and the travel distance to an extinguisher shall not exceed 50 feet from anywhere in the building.
- (5) Fire extinguishers shall have a current inspection tag.

NFPA 1 20.1.4.2.2

Fire Alarm Systems:

Actuation of any smoke detection system device shall sound an alarm at a constantly attended location on the premises. NFPA 1 20.1.4.5

Haunted Houses shall be protected by a fire alarm system and shall include the following systems or functions in accordance with Section 13.7:

- (1) Manual fire alarm signal initiation,
- (2) Automatic fire alarm and supervisory signal initiation.
- (3) Monitoring of abnormal conditions in fire suppression systems.
- (4) Activation of fire suppression systems.
- (5) Activation of fire safety functions.
- (6) Activation of fire alarm notification appliances.
- (7) In-building fire emergency voice/alarm communications.
- (8) Guard's tour supervisory service.
- (9) Process monitoring supervisory systems.
- (10) Activation of off-premises signals.
- (11) Combination systems.
- (12) Smoke detection throughout.

NFPA 1 20.1.4.5.1

□ MAIN OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2027

□ DISTRICT A OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2590

□ DISTRICT B/C OFFICE
438 West Market
Albion, NE 68620-1241
Office (402) 395-2164

□ FUELS DIVISION
□ FLST □ Pipeline Safety
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-9465

□ TRAINING DIVISION
3347 W Capital Ave
Grand Island, NE 68801
Office (308) 385-6892



Where a haunted house does not exceed 1,000 square feet and the travel distance to an exit from any point does not exceed 50 feet, the requirements of 20.1.4.5.1 shall not be required to be met when an initiating system including manually activated devices and audible notification appliances suitable for sounding an alarm as approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction are provided. The alarm shall be distinctive in tone and shall be capable of being heard throughout the haunted house. NFPA 1 20.1.4.5.1.1

Illumination:

Actuation of the automatic sprinkler system, or any other suppression system, or actuation of a smoke detection system having an approved verification or cross-zoning operation capability shall provide for the following:

- (1) Increase in illumination in the means of egress to that required by Section 14.12
- (2) Termination of any conflicting or confusing sounds and visuals [101:12.4.7.6; 101:13.4.7.6]

NFPA 1 20.1.4.6

In Haunted Houses, **emergency lighting** meeting the requirements of Section 14.13 shall be provided in exit access pathways, and in all rooms, areas or spaces where the occupant load exceeds 50 persons. NFPA 1 20.1.4.6.1

Interior Finish:

Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 12.5 shall be Class A throughout. [101:12.4.7.8; 101:13.4.7.8] NFPA 1 20.1.4.8

Electrical:

Haunted Houses shall meet the requirements of Section 11.1 and 20.1.4.9.1 through 20.1.4.9.5, as applicable. NFPA 1 20.1.4.9

Extension cords in Haunted Houses shall be of heavy commercial type, UL listed, in good condition, and shall be appropriate for the intended use. NFPA 1 20.1.4.9.1

In Haunted houses, only UL listed power strips with over-current protection shall be used when the number of outlets provided is inadequate. Power strips shall be plugged directly into provided outlets, and shall not be plugged into one another in series or plugged into extension cords. NFPA 1 20.1.4.9.2

All extension cords and power strips in Haunted houses shall be adequately protected from damage, including foot traffic (“Bridged”) if paths of travel cannot be avoided. NFPA 1 20.1.4.9.3

In Haunted houses, temporary electrical wiring, except flexible cords, shall be securely fastened to the top of walls or ceilings and all splices shall terminate within covered electrical boxes. NFPA 1 20.1.4.9.4

□ MAIN OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2027

□ DISTRICT A OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2590

□ DISTRICT B/C OFFICE
438 West Market
Albion, NE 68620-1241
Office (402) 395-2164

□ FUELS DIVISION
□ FLST □ Pipeline Safety
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-9465

□ TRAINING DIVISION
3347 W Capital Ave
Grand Island, NE 68801
Office (308) 385-6892



A means to illuminate the entire area to facilitate any rescue or evacuation shall be provided in Haunted houses. NFPA 1 20.1.4.9.5

Emergency Procedure Plan:

An emergency procedure plan for Haunted houses shall be provided and shall be available for review by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and shall include training of staff and familiarization with the fire alarm tone. Where an approved fire alarm system is not provided, specific personnel shall be designated to turn off all distracting noises (i.e.: sound system) and turn on lights when alerted of an emergency condition. NFPA 1 20.1.4.10

In Haunted houses, all staff shall carry flashlights and know the location of all exits, fire extinguishers, light switches, electrical panels. Telephone communication shall be readily available for the purpose of calling 911 in the event of an emergency. NFPA 1 20.1.4.10.1

The emergency procedure plan for Haunted houses shall include provisions for moving patrons through the event to include time spacing between groups, maximum number of patrons per group, and total number of patrons in the event at any given time. NFPA 1 20.1.4.10.2

Decorative Materials:

All decorative materials including decorations, drapes, backdrops, and props in Haunted houses shall be either inherently flame retardant and labeled as such, or shall be treated with an approved flame retardant meeting the requirements of NFPA 701, Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films. NFPA 1 20.1.4.11

Where decorative material is treated by the user, all of the following shall be required for proof of compliance:

- (1) The original container for the product,
- (2) Documentation showing the date of treatment and person who treated the material.

NFPA 1 20.1.4.11.1

20.1.4.12 Operating Features:

Approved “NO SMOKING OR OPEN FLAME” signs shall be provided at main entrance and throughout the Haunted house. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.1

Storage or use of flammable or combustible liquids, gasses and solids within Haunted houses is prohibited. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.2

Candles, other open-flame devices, and carbon monoxide producing equipment are prohibited in Haunted houses. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.3

□ MAIN OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2027

□ DISTRICT A OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2590

□ DISTRICT B/C OFFICE
438 West Market
Albion, NE 68620-1241
Office (402) 395-2164

□ FUELS DIVISION
□ FLST □ Pipeline Safety
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-9465

□ TRAINING DIVISION
3347 W Capital Ave
Grand Island, NE 68801
Office (308) 385-6892



Good housekeeping shall be maintained throughout Haunted houses at all times. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.4

Guides, if provided, shall be experienced in walking through the Haunted house or maze and shall be familiar with the locations of emergency exits and fire extinguishers. They shall also be knowledgeable in the use of portable fire extinguishers. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.5

Portable space heaters are prohibited in Haunted houses. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.6

A sign stating the maximum occupant capacity shall be posted in a visible location near the entrance to a Haunted house, and staff shall control the flow of patrons so as not to exceed this limit. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.7

Exhibits, decorative materials and devices such as smoke machines in Haunted houses shall not obstruct, confuse, or obscure exits, exit pathways, exit signs, emergency lighting units, fire sprinklers, fire extinguishers, or any other fire protection equipment. NFPA 1 20.1.4.12.8

Code References:

2012 NFPA 1 (NE Specific Amendments)

(06/2022)

□ MAIN OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2027

□ DISTRICT A OFFICE
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-2590

□ DISTRICT B/C OFFICE
438 West Market
Albion, NE 68620-1241
Office (402) 395-2164

□ FUELS DIVISION
□ FLST □ Pipeline Safety
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
Office (402) 471-9465

□ TRAINING DIVISION
3347 W Capital Ave
Grand Island, NE 68801
Office (308) 385-6892

