



## OREGON FIRE CODE Interpretations and Technical Advisories

A collaborative service by local and state fire professionals, along with our stakeholders and customers, to provide consistent and concise application of Oregon's fire prevention and life safety regulations.

**Date:** April 4, 2011

**Ruling:** Interpretation No. 11-03 (Revised 98-19 & 05-04)

**Subject:** Fire Safety in Yurts Used In Oregon State Parks

**Code Reference:** 2010 Oregon Fire Code, Sections 110.1, 1004.1.1, 1029.1, 4604.1 and Section 1030

**Questions(s):** 1) What is the occupant load of a yurt?

2) What kind of heating equipment is approved for use in yurts?

3) What kind of emergency exiting is required?

**Answer(s):** Question #1: Occupant load will be determined by the number of persons the furnished yurt was designed to sleep (OFC 1004.1.1, 4604.1). That number shall be determined by the number and size of beds as determined by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department or the yurt manufacturer. Occupant loads for yurts without beds or other furnishings shall be determined to have the same occupant loads as furnished yurts with equivalent floor area.

Question #2: New, permanently installed heating equipment shall be installed and inspected, in accordance with the 2010 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, its listing and is located opposite the exit door. Existing unlisted heating equipment shall maintain minimum clearances to combustibles of 36 inches in the front and 30 inches in the back and sides, and be located opposite the exit door. Existing listed and labeled heating equipment shall maintain clearances to combustibles in accordance with its listing, and be located opposite the exit door.

Question #3: The door provided in yurts specified in the BCD Interpretative Ruling, Yurts Used as Recreational Structures, is adequate to provide access to, exiting from and an emergency escape from the sleeping room. The fire code and the building code require one operable window or door which shall open directly to the outside and can be operable from the inside without the use of separate tools. This would allow thumb turn deadbolt locking, but would not allow double-key locking devices. The single door functions as the emergency escape because there are no divisions within the yurt. All of the sleeping is conducted in one room. The

shortened door height allowed by Interpretive Ruling, Yurts Used as recreational Structures, will be considered to provide adequate means of emergency egress provided:

- The number of occupants sleeping within a yurt does not exceed the occupant load specified in #1, and
- The heater (if provided) is opposite the exit door, and
- The exit is directly to the outside.

**Other References:** ORS 476.030(1)(c), Oregon Building Codes Division Interpretive Ruling Yurts Used as Recreational Structures, Oregon Structural Specialty Code, 2010 Edition, Section 1004.1.1 and 1029.1 and Oregon Mechanical specialty Code, 2010 Edition, Sections 105, 106, 107, 304.1, 304.9 and 308.7.