



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

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Crop Maze Venue Best Practices

Crop mazes pose unique fire and life safety hazards due to their challenging configuration and the inherent combustibility of the maze material. Listed below are recommended best practices for reducing risk within and around a crop maze open to the public.

- The owner or operator of a crop maze amusement attraction should train all staff of the fire and life safety best practices and duties they are expected to perform, prior to the staff assuming their respective duties.
- The owner, operator or staff member of a crop maze should provide safety instructions to the visitors and patrons of the crop maze prior to their entrance of the maze. This may be done by verbal instruction, displaying a video, written handout, or clear signage at a designated staging area.
- A minimum of two staff members should be on duty to monitor a crop maze during hours of operation. The size of the crop maze may require additional staff to monitor conditions effectively.
- A minimum of one dedicated staff member to monitor the maze from an elevated platform or terrain at least 10 feet over the crop maze. This will permit the staff to observe the activity in the maze. In the event of a fire or other emergency, the staff can direct people away from the hazard and first responders to the location of the emergency and/or person in need.
- The owner or operator of a crop maze should contact the local fire department and provide the fire department with the opportunity to prepare an emergency pre-plan of the crop maze amusement attraction prior to the start of its seasonal operations.
- Motorized vehicles should be parked on a firm surface, free of material that may ignite from the heat of the vehicle's exhaust system. Vehicles should not be parked within 75 ft of a crop maze.
- There should be a clear fuel break with a minimum of a 20 ft wide clear space between a crop maze and any vegetation outside the maze.
- A means to communicate with visitors or patrons by a public address system or other means (bull horn/loud speaker etc.) should be readily available to staff at a crop maze in assisting them in making announcements in the event of an emergency.
- The entrance and exit of a crop maze should not be blocked or obstructed during any time the maze is open for business and occupied by the public.
- There should be no more than 200 persons per acre, including adults and children, occupying the crop maze at any one time.
- No open flame-producing devices or equipment shall be permitted within the confines of the crop maze. The owner or operator of a crop maze should check with the local fire department for open flame use outside of the crop maze.
- "No Smoking" signage should be posted and staff should prohibit smoking within the confines and perimeter of the crop maze.
- Fireworks should not be discharged within a minimum of 300 ft of any crop maze. The use of fireworks for public display requires a permit from the local fire and police departments and the State Department of Safety.

This list is a minimum recommendation and the owner or operator should look throughout the venue for fire and other potential hazards for injury to reduce the risk to guests while they enjoy these outside venues.

Sprinklers Save Lives

Check Your Smoke Alarms