



Texas Department of Insurance State Fire Marshal's Office – Inspections Division

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April 18, 2011

Dungeon of Doom Special Amusement Building
Kemah Waterfront- Parking Garage
Kemah, Texas 77565
Shawn Taylor
713-850-1010

Inspection Number: RRO9576A
Date of Consultation: 4/5/2011
Galveston County

Authority: 417.008, Tex. Gov. Code and adopted rules 28 TAC 34.303

As a result of questions raised by concerned citizens and to assist the Kemah Emergency Services District, the State Fire Marshal's Office provided consultation services regarding minimum fire protection requirements for the above noted facility on April 5, 2011.

The City of Kemah is the Authority Having Jurisdiction, and currently enforces the *2003 Edition of the International Fire Code, (IFC) and 2009 Edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*. The State Fire Marshal's Office has adopted, and currently enforces the *2009 Edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is only authorized by state statutes to enforce the requirements of *NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*; and is not permitted to enforce or regulate a fire code that is adopted by an incorporated city, or other government entity.

This consultation is intended to provide basic information regarding interpretation of minimum code requirements for features of fire protection for this building occupancy classification. You may wish to cross reference the *Life Safety Code with the IFC* for comparative value regarding minimum life safety standards.

The *2009 Edition of the National Fire Protection Association, 101, Life Safety Code*, is referenced for consultative findings in this report.

The Dungeon of Doom Haunted House is classified as an existing assembly occupancy- special amusement structure that is installed in a commercial parking garage located adjacent to the Kemah waterfront and boardwalk area. Interior finish consists of partial height, wood partition panels, arranged to create a maze-like travel path throughout the structure, with various props and scenery placed along the walking surface. Life safety features for the structure are limited to portable fire extinguishers.

A certificate of occupancy was not displayed for this building.

Means of Egress Hazards:

The amusement structure is not equipped with illuminated exit sign marking and floor proximity exit signs that operate in emergency mode.

The path of exit travel to reach the exterior doors of the structure is not apparent or marked with exit signs.

In special amusement buildings where mazes, mirrors, or other designs are used to confound the egress path, approved directional exit marking that becomes apparent in an emergency shall be provided.

An automatic increase in illumination for the means of egress shall be provided when a smoke detection system or fire sprinklers are actuated, and also result in termination of conflicting or confusing sounds and visuals.

Protection Hazards:

The building is not equipped with a smoke detection system that when actuated, sounds an alarm at a constantly attended location on the premises.

The structure exceeds the maximum permitted aggregate dimensions, and is not protected with an approved, supervised automatic fire sprinkler system.

Interior wall finish, including props, decorations and scenery shall meet approved flame retardant and smoke development index requirements.

Building Service Hazards:

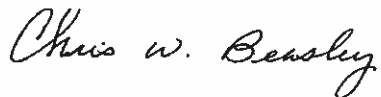
Multiple electrical hazards exist throughout the interior of the structure, and service does not appear to be installed in accordance with national standards.

Numerous extension cords are in use as permanent wiring for the structure, and are plugged into unapproved adapters, and interconnected in multiple lengths.

Exposed wiring is present at junction boxes in various locations.

Note: According to information obtained from property management staff, this amusement building is operated on a seasonal basis, and not currently in service.

It is the opinion of the State Fire Marshal's Office, that this special amusement structure should not be operated for public occupancy until all required life safety features are installed.



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Deputy State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal's Office
Fire Safety Inspection Services

cc: Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, Brent E. Hahn
City of Kemah
Landry's Corporation