

Guidelines for Vendor Platforms on the Beach

Virginia Beach Fire Dept. Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with inspecting new and existing buildings within the City of Virginia Beach. The main focus when performing inspections is life safety and subsequently building/property safety. The objective of fire inspections is to identify and correct fire and life safety code violations.

Vendor Platforms

Any food vendor that is cooking food on any public beach needs to operate on a stable platform. Vendors that considering a beach location will need to ensure that any cooking activities take place on a platform that meets our minimum requirements.

Fire Prevention Bureau

2408 Courthouse Dr.

Building #21,

Virginia Beach, VA, 23456

Phone: 385-4228 Fax: 385-5676

www.vbgov.com/fire-prevention

To facilitate a safe environment for the workers and public when food vendors are using commercial cooking appliances on the city beach during special events, it shall be required by City of Virginia Beach Fire Prevention Bureau that all such appliances be stationed on a solid surface platform. For this document a commercial appliance is defined as; any commercial cooking device that is manufactured to be used on a stable and level surface for the preparation of food being served to the public.

Exception: Food vendors that are not cooking food on site and are only warming are exempt from the platform requirements.

The design requirements for food vendor platforms are listed below.

- Platforms shall be constructed on the beach only after the sand has been graded and leveled.
- The platform shall have completely level working surface.
- The surface shall be strong enough to support the weight of the personnel, equipment, and tent without sagging or buckling.
- The platform shall be large enough to create a working surface for all workers and equipment without a gradient change. The minimum size for the platform is 16'x16'. This will facilitate the use of a 15'x15' commercial tent.
- Roofing felt paper shall be used to cover the surface of the decking before cooking equipment is put in place.

Platforms that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be approved to operate. All vendors need to completely fill out all Special Event and Film Office (SEAFO) food vendor sheets and then contact your event manager/promoter. All questions should be directed to the event manger/promoter, do not contact SEAFO.

Fire Prevention will inspect the cooking platforms prior to use. The Fire Marshal or his/her representative shall have the final say as to if the platform is stable enough to use.



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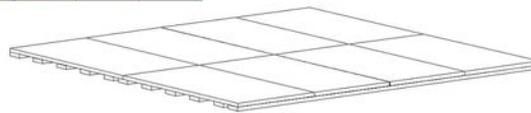
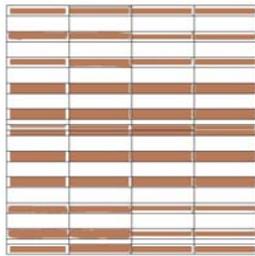
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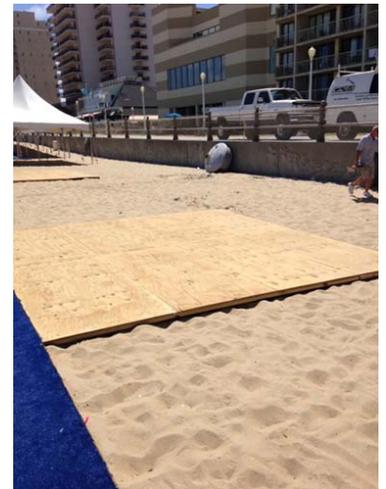
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Wooden Platform Specifications

- The decking for the platform shall be a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ plywood sheets.
- The minimum size lumber to be used as the support structure for the plywood decking shall be 2" x 8" x 16' boards.
- Hardware fasteners to be used for construction shall be all weather decking screws. (no nails)



8 SHEETS OF 3/4 PLYWOOD
11 2" X 8" X 16' STRINGERS



An alternative material that cooking food vendors may use is composite decking. The decking must be approved by Fire Prevention and the Health Department before use.

Composite Platform Specifications

- A specifications sheet shall be provided for all decking.

