



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Division

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

GUIDELINE A.06 – Temporary and Holiday Lighting

A.06.1 PURPOSE

This guideline is intended to provide safety standards and regulations for the proper use of temporary and holiday lighting.

A.06.2 SCOPE

This guideline and the regulations noted herein apply to all temporary and holiday lighting. It does not supersede the requirements of the California Electrical Code. The requirements contained in this guideline may be found in the California Fire Code and the California Electrical Code.

A.06.3 DEFINITIONS

CEC: California Electrical Code

CFC: California Fire Code

Festoon Lighting: A string of lighting suspended between 2 or more points and intended for permanent installation. Festoon lighting is recognized and regulated by the California Electrical Code.

Temporary Lighting: Portable wiring and lighting intended for use with events of a transient or temporary nature where all equipment is presumed to be removed at the conclusion of the event. Temporary wiring is usually installed without protection from mechanical damage provided by a protective sheath or conduit.

A.06.4 PROCEDURE

During Construction:

- Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting installations used in connection with the construction, alteration, or demolition of buildings, structures, equipment, or similar activities shall comply with the California Electrical Code.

During Special Events and Holidays:

- Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting installations is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days. (CFC)
- Temporary wiring methods shall meet the applicable provisions of the California Electrical Code.

Attachment to Structures:

- Temporary wiring attached to a structure shall be attached in an approved manner. (CFC)

Installation:

- When temporary lighting is attached to a structure, it shall be in an approved manner. Nails or staples that penetrate the insulation shall not be used. Insulated staples are recommended. (CFC)
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendation regarding the number of strings of lights which may be installed end to end. (CFC)
- Temporary lighting must be plugged directly into an electrical outlet or extension cord of adequate capacity. Size 12 wire extension cords on 20-amp circuits are recommended. (CFC)
- Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting installations shall not pass-through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings or be subject to environmental or physical damage. (CFC)
- The wiring shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration, or damage. (CFC)

Removal:

- Temporary wiring shall be removed immediately upon completion of construction or for the purpose for which the wiring or lighting was installed. (CEC)
- Holiday lighting should be removed immediately after the holiday period for which it was installed. Under no circumstances may the temporary lighting remain for more than 90 days. (CFC, CEC)

Festoon Lighting:

Festoon lighting is often used to illuminate Christmas tree lots, carnivals, fairs, and other outdoor events. Festoon lighting may also be installed permanently in businesses such as restaurants or other commercial occupancies. The bulbs are generally 15-45 watts and attached to size 12 wires. Depending on the spacing, a support wire may also be required.



Festoon wiring must be installed in accordance with the California Electrical Code and an electrical permit is required.