

# NOTICE

## Permits for Stages and Tents

As festival season gets into full swing, Alberta Municipal Affairs would like to remind all permit issuers, festival organisers, event planners and equipment rental companies across the province of the need to consider the requirements for permits and safety inspections for events and festivals.

Stages, tents and other festival-type structures are considered to be buildings as defined by the Alberta Building Code 2006, and as such, owners and event organisers are required to apply for a building permit any time a stage, tent or other festival-type structure is constructed, installed or erected, regardless of the duration or timing of the event.

While local authorities have the flexibility to require selective code compliance for temporary structures, Municipal Affairs recommends inspections of temporary structures in the interest of public safety. In particular, stages, tents and other festival-type structures of larger size, that are adjacent to other structures, have a high occupant load, or involve activities that carry a fire or explosive risk, such as housing commercial cooking equipment, should be permitted and inspected.

### Background

At approximately 6:00 pm on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, a severe weather system caused the collapse of the main stage at the Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose, Alberta. Approximately 60 people were injured in the event and, one person was killed as a result.

Alberta Municipal Affairs is concerned that permit issuers, festival organisers, event planners and equipment rental companies across the province are made aware of their responsibilities under the *Safety Codes Act*. Owners have a responsibility to ensure their temporary structures comply with the Alberta Building Code and apply for permits. Local authorities have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to issue permits and inspect for compliance.

While severe weather events cannot be predicted or controlled, we can all do our part to minimize the risk of harm to the public. During this festival season, please do your part so that we all can safely enjoy the best that Alberta has to offer.

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For further information about this notice, contact the Safety Services Branch toll-free at 1-866-421-6929.

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**Government  
of Alberta** 