

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION OF GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 1200-1-5  
ORGANIZED CAMPS**

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**1200-1-5-.01 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Health or the Commissioner's authorized representative.
- (2) "Critical item" means an aspect of operation or condition of facilities or equipment which, if in violation, constitutes the greatest hazard to health and safety.
- (3) "Day Camp" means an organized camp program that campers attend for an established period of time, returning to their homes at night, and which provides creative, recreational and educational opportunities in the out-of-doors.
- (4) "Department" means the Department of Health.
- (5) "Extensively remodeled" means alteration to change bed or sleeping capacity, as well as the increase or decrease of floor space.
- (6) "Imminent health hazard" means any condition, deficiency, or practice which, if not corrected, is very likely to result in illness, injury, or loss of life.
- (7) "Motor home" means any motorized vehicle designed as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational, or vacation use.
- (8) "Natural swimming area" means a portion of a river, lake, reservoir, creek, pond, or stream used for swimming within the organized camp.
- (9) "Organized camp" means an area, place, parcel or tract of land on which facilities are established or maintained to provide an outdoor group-living experience for children or adults, or where one (1) or more permanent or semi-permanent structures are established or maintained as living or sleeping quarters for children or adults, and operated for educational, social, recreational, religious instruction or activity, physical education or health, or vacation purposes either gratuitously or for compensation; provided, however, that this definition is not intended to include
  - (a) a hunting, fishing or other camp privately owned and used exclusively for the personal pleasure of the owner and the owner's guests;
  - (b) a camp site on property owned by a church and used exclusively for the personal benefit of the members of the church and such members' guests, if:

(Rule 1200-1-5-.01, continued)

1. no permanent or semi-permanent structures or buildings are established or maintained on the camp site as living or sleeping quarters, restrooms, or for a cafeteria or kitchen, to provide an outdoor group-living experience for children or adults;
  2. the camp site is used for occasional weekend or overnight camping experiences for such persons; and the camp site contains no electrical, sewage, or water hookups or pads to accommodate travel trailers, truck coaches or campers, tent campers, and other similar camping vehicles.
- (c) facilities permitted as hotels as defined in Hotel Rules 1200-23-4.
- (10) "Owner/Operator" means the applicant, permittee, or other person to be in charge of an organized camp.
  - (11) "Permanent structure" means a building and appurtenances at a fixed location maintained for living, sleeping, educational, social, recreational, religious instruction, physical education, health, or vacation purposes.
  - (12) "Person" means any and all persons, including an individual, firm, association, municipal or private corporation, state, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a state, interstate body, governmental agency of this state and a department, agency, or instrumentality of the branches of the federal government.
  - (13) "Primitive camp" means an organized camp established for tent camping only.
  - (14) "Public health officer" means the director of a city, county, or district health department having jurisdiction over the community health in a specific area, or the officer's authorized representative.
  - (15) "Resident camp" means one or more permanent or semi-permanent structures maintained for living, sleeping, educational, social, recreational, religious instruction, physical education, health, or vacation purposes.
  - (16) "Semi-permanent structure" means any temporary or portable facility maintained for living, sleeping, educational, social, recreational, religious instruction, physical education, health, or vacation purposes.
  - (17) "State Fire Marshal's Office" means the Department of Commerce and Insurance, Division of Fire Prevention.
  - (18) "Tent camper" means a towed vehicle constructed so that the sides or top may be extended when parked and retracted while towed and designed as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational, or vacation use.
  - (19) "Travel camp" means one or more sites for motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, tent campers, or tents.
  - (20) "Travel camp sites" means designated camping spaces which are equipped with utility hookups.
  - (21) "Travel trailer" means a towed vehicle designed as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational, or vacation use.
  - (22) "Truck camper" means a portable structure without a chassis or wheels and built for transport by truck and designed as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational, or vacation use.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§4-5-202, 53-3802, 68-110-101, and 68-110-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 7, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed May 6, 2002; effective July 20, 2002.

**1200-1-5-.02 PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.**

- (1) Construction or extensive remodeling of an organized camp shall require approval of plans which shall show:
  - (a) area and dimensions of the site to a scale of not less than 1" = 100';
  - (b) property lines;
  - (c) number, location, and dimensions of all camping spaces;
  - (d) number, size, type, and location of all permanent and semi-permanent structures;
  - (e) location of water supply and sewage disposal;
  - (f) location and width of roads; and
  - (g) number, location, and type of acceptable fire fighting equipment.
- (2) Plans and specifications shall indicate the proposed layout arrangement, mechanical plans, construction materials, work areas, and the type and model of proposed fixed equipment and facilities.
- (3) No person shall commence construction, extensive remodeling or conversion, within an organized camp, of any permanent structure which is two or more stories in height consisting of twelve or more units until plans or specifications therefor have been submitted to and approved in writing by the State Fire Marshal's Office or other authority having jurisdiction in accordance with applicable law and rules.
- (4) No person shall commence construction, extensive remodeling or conversion, within an organized camp, of any place of assembly having a capacity of three hundred (300) or more persons until plans and specifications therefor have been submitted to and approved in writing by the State Fire Marshal's Office or other authority having jurisdiction in accordance with applicable law and rules.
- (5) Except as specified in paragraphs (3) and (4), no person shall commence construction, extensive remodeling or conversion, within an organized camp, of any permanent structure until plans and specifications therefor have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Commissioner.
- (6) All structures within an organized camp shall be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable state and local building and fire codes.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§4-5-202, 53-3802, and 68-110-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 7, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed May 6, 2002; effective July 20, 2002.

**1200-1-5-.03 PERMITTING AND INSPECTION.**

- (1) Application Procedures
  - (a) A person planning to construct, operate, or change ownership of an organized camp shall submit a written permit application with the proper fee, as set forth in T.C.A. 68-110-103, to the Commissioner.
  - (b) A person planning to operate an organized camp must obtain a written application for a permit on a form provided by the Commissioner through the local county health department prior to operating an organized camp.
  - (c) An application for a permit is required for an organized camp that has not previously been permitted or in instances when ownership changes.
  - (d) For the purposes of determining a change of ownership of an organized camp, a "person" shall include a change of ownership of the organized camp by a corporation (e.g., Corporation A sells its organized camp to Corporation B) or a change of ownership of a corporation which owns an

(Rule 1200-1-5-.03, continued)

organized camp. If there is no change in the federal tax identification number applicable to the corporation which owns the organized camp, there is no change of ownership for permit purposes.

- (e) The Commissioner shall issue an organized camp permit
  - 1. upon receiving a completed application with applicable fees; and
  - 2. after an inspection of the proposed facility reveals that the facility is in compliance with requirements of these rules.
- (2) Inspection Procedures
  - (a) The Commissioner shall inspect or cause to be inspected every organized camp at least once every six (6) months or as often as deemed necessary by the Commissioner.
  - (b) Inspection results for organized camps shall be recorded on standard departmental forms which summarize the requirements of the law and rules.
  - (c) The scoring system shall include a weighted point value for each requirement in which critical items are assigned values, at the discretion of the department, of either four (4) or five (5) points, with non-critical items having assigned values of either one (1) or two (2) points.
  - (d) The rating score of the facilities shall be the total of the weighted point values for all violations subtracted from one hundred (100).
- (3) The organized camp shall be accessible for inspection and not be subject to flooding during the camping season.
- (4) Critical item violations shall be corrected within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the inspection. The inspection report shall state that failure to comply with any time limits for correction may result in suspension of permit or cessation of operation.
- (5) The citation of a violation of a non-critical item may be appealed, upon receipt of a written request submitted to the Director of General Environmental Health within ten (10) calendar days following the date of the inspection report. If the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day falls on a weekend or state holiday, the first work day following shall be treated as the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day. The request for appeal shall identify the non-critical item(s) being appealed. The final determination on the appeal shall be made by the Director or the Director's Designee in writing and within a reasonable time after receipt of the request for an appeal.
- (6) The citation of a violation of a critical item may also be appealed upon the receipt of a written request submitted to the Director of General Environmental Health within ten (10) calendar days following the date of the inspection report. If the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day falls on a weekend or state holiday, the first work day following shall be treated as the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day. The request for appeal shall identify the critical item(s) being appealed. The decision of the Director shall be final and made in writing within a reasonable time of the request for an appeal.
- (7) Upon declaration of an imminent health hazard by the Commissioner, the facility shall immediately cease operations until authorized to reopen. A request for a hearing may be made in writing to the Commissioner postmarked or received within ten (10) calendar days of the decision of the Director.
- (8) The Commissioner shall suspend an organized camp permit, if the Commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that the permittee is not in compliance with the provisions of this part; provided, however, the permittee shall be given the opportunity to correct violations as provided in Rule 1200-1-5-.03(4).

(Rule 1200-1-5-.03, continued)

The Commissioner may provide a notice of suspension on the regular inspection report or by letter. A written request for a hearing on a suspension must be filed by the permittee within ten (10) days of receipt of notice. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within a reasonable time of the request. If no request for a hearing is made within ten (10) days of receipt of notice, the suspension becomes final and not subject to review. When a permit suspension is effective, all operations must cease. The Commissioner may end the suspension at any time, if reasons for suspension no longer exist in the opinion of the Commissioner.

- (9) Permit Revocation
  - (a) After providing an opportunity for a hearing, the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative may revoke a permit for serious or repeated violations of requirements of this part or for interference with the Commissioner in the performance of the Commissioner's duty.
  - (b) Prior to revocation, the Commissioner shall notify, in writing, the permittee of the specific reason(s) for which the permit is to be revoked. The permit shall be revoked at the end of ten (10) days following service of such notice, unless a written request for a hearing is filed with the Commissioner within such ten-day period. If no request for hearing is filed within the ten-day period, the revocation of the permit becomes final.
- (10) Whenever a facility is required under this rule to cease operations by order to cease operation, or by suspension or revocation of permit, it shall not resume operations until it is shown on re-inspection that conditions responsible for the cessation of operations no longer exist. Opportunity for re-inspection shall be offered within a reasonable time.
- (11) A notice provided for in this part is properly served when it is hand delivered to the permittee or person in charge, or alternatively, five (5) days from the mailing, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the permittee. A copy of the notice shall be filed in the records of the Commissioner.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§4-5-202, 53-3802, 68-110-102, 68-110-103, 68-110-104, and 68-110-105. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 7, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed May 6, 2002; effective July 20, 2002.

#### **1200-1-5-.04 FACILITIES AND GROUNDS.**

- (1) Motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, tent campers, and tents shall be located fifteen feet or more apart in clearly marked spaces.
- (2) The campgrounds shall be free of refuse and debris. Dogs, cats, and other domestic animals shall be leashed, confined, and/or otherwise under control at all times.
- (3) Permanent and semi-permanent structures shall be clean and maintained in good repair and provided with adequate lighting.
- (4) The organized camp operator shall keep a register for a period of one (1) year at the organized camp facility. Such register shall contain each camper's name, address, telephone number, and camping dates.
- (5) Fire Safety
  - (a) Fire Extinguishers
    1. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided in hazardous areas, including storage rooms, laundry, linen, and gas-fired equipment rooms.

(Rule 1200-1-5-.04, continued)

2. Fire extinguishers shall be of a type approved by the State Fire Marshal's office and installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with State Fire Marshal's Office law and rules.
3. No soda-acid types of extinguishers are to be used.

(b) Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarms

1. All sleeping rooms and sleeping areas shall be provided with a single-station smoke detector. Smoke detectors shall be of a type approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office or local jurisdiction and shall be installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with State Fire Marshal's Office law and rules. Single-station smoke detection shall not be required when sleeping rooms contain smoke detectors connected to a central alarm system which also alarms locally.
2. A fire alarm system of a type approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office shall be installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with State Fire Marshal's Office law and rules in organized camps having more than fifteen (15) guest rooms, with exceptions being organized camps.
  - (i) in which all individual guest rooms have a direct exit to the outside or
  - (ii) having buildings three (3) stories or less with each guest room having two (2) or more directions to exit from the entrance door of the room.
3. Travel and resident camps shall provide a telephone at the office or in an area which is accessible at all times for the immediate notification of the public fire department or private fire brigade in case of fire and to access emergency health services.

(c) Electrical Hazards, Heating, and Flammable

1. Visible and/or obvious fire and electrical hazards are prohibited.
2. There shall be no storage of flammables, lawnmowers, gas powered string trimmers, or other similar flammable operated equipment in boiler or electrical panel rooms. Separate secured storage areas shall be provided for plainly marked flammables, explosives, and hazardous chemicals.
3. Flammable liquids shall be stored in a well ventilated, separate building away from guest sleeping rooms, which is constructed and rated for storage of flammables in accordance with State Fire Marshal's Office law and rules and shall be clearly marked.
4. Draperies, curtains, and other similar loosely hanging furnishings and decorations shall be flame resistant.
5. Furnishings or decorations of an explosive or highly flammable character shall not be used.

(d) Exits and Evacuation Plans

1. Each guest room door that opens into an interior corridor shall be self-closing.
2. Exits shall be clear of obstructions, marked, lighted, and maintained at all times.
3. Stairways shall be open and free of obstructions at all times.

(Rule 1200-1-5-.04, continued)

4. A floor diagram reflecting the actual floor arrangement, exit locations, and room identifications shall be posted in a location and in an acceptable manner on or immediately adjacent to every guest room door.
  
- (6) Permanent sleeping quarters shall conform to the following.
  - (a) Each shall have adequate ventilation, and there shall be at least three (3) feet between sides of each bed and adequate space to provide movement between beds.
  - (b) Articles of bedding shall be clean and in good repair.
  - (c) Permanent sleeping quarters shall have a minimum of forty (40) square feet per person floor space.
  - (d) Waterproof mattresses or mattress covers shall be provided.
  - (e) Each stacked bunk bed shall have a guardrail. The lower edge of the guardrail and the top surface of the mattress shall close the space between the lower edge of the guardrail and the upper edge of the bedframe to 3½ inches or less.
  - (f) Children of less than six (6) years of age shall not be allowed on the upper bunks.
  
- (7) Storage area(s) for luggage and personal effects shall be provided in resident camps.
  
- (8) A first aid kit for minor injuries shall be provided at the office or an area which is open or accessible at all times.
  
- (9) Natural swimming areas shall have no drop-offs, potholes, rock outcroppings, stumps, other obstacles, heavy vegetative growth or pollution. Depths and boundaries shall be conspicuously marked and lifesaving equipment, as required for public swimming pools, shall be available.
  
- (10) Each organized camp shall be provided with adequate restroom and/or bathing facilities. The ratio of water closets, urinals, lavatories, and showers in bathhouses and restrooms shall be in compliance with applicable local and/or state building and plumbing codes. Toilet tissue and covered, fire-resistant waste containers shall be provided.
  - (a) In the absence of applicable building or plumbing codes, fixtures shall be provided in the following ratios.

# Spaces or Sites	Water Closets		Urinals	Lavatories		Showers	
	Men	Women		Men	Women	Men	Women
1-15	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
16-30	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
31-45	2	2	1	3	3	1	1
46-60	2	3	2	3	3	2	2
61-80	3	4	2	4	4	2	2
81-100	4	5	2	4	4	3	3

1. In the absence of urinals, the ratio of water closets for men and women shall be the same.

(Rule 1200-1-5-.04, continued)

- 2. There shall be one (1) additional water closet and lavatory per gender for each additional twenty-five (25) camp spaces/sites and one (1) additional shower per gender for each additional forty (40) spaces/sites.

(b) In the absence of applicable building or plumbing codes, the ratio of water closets, lavatories, urinals, bathing facilities, and other fixtures for occupants of organized resident camps shall be as follows. The table identifies the number of individuals or persons per facility.

Water Closets		Urinals *	Lavatories		Showers	
Men	Women		Men	Women	Men	Women
1/12	1/10	1/25	1/12	1/12	1/12	1/12

\*In the absence of urinals, ratio of water closets for men and women shall be the same.

- (c) There shall be one (1) drinking fountain for every seventy-two (72) persons at resident camps.
- (d) Service buildings with toilet, bathing, and lavatory facilities shall be provided for motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, and tent campers which do not have sewage holding tanks.
- (e) Primitive camps and camps offering services to recreational or similar vehicles (e.g., motor homes and travel trailers) with sewage holding tanks are exempt from the restroom and/or bathing facility requirements.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§4-5-202, 53-3802, and 68-110-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 7, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed May 6, 2002; effective July 20, 2002.

**1200-1-5-.05 WATER SUPPLY, SEWAGE AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL.**

- (1) Water supply and sewage disposal systems shall be provided from a source constructed and operated according to law. The potable water system shall be installed to preclude the possibility of backflow. Primitive camps shall not be required to have water. Ice shall be from an approved source and protected from contamination.
- (2) Durable, easily cleanable, and enclosed potable drinking water containers shall be maintained in a sanitary condition. Common use of cups or dippers is prohibited.
- (3) Sanitary stations with a covered sewage disposal inlet surrounded by a concrete apron sloped inward to the drain with wash down facilities or capped, four (4) inches, above-ground sewer connections shall be provided for motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, and tent campers with sewage holding tanks.
- (4) All garbage and refuse shall be disposed of according to applicable laws or ordinances.
- (5) An adequate number of clean, covered, garbage and refuse containers in good repair shall be provided. Tied plastic bags are acceptable if removed daily.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§4-5-202, 53-3802, and 68-110-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 7, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed May 6, 2002; effective July 20, 2002.

**1200-1-5-.06 GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

- (1) Posting of Permit. T.C.A. 68-110-103(e) requires the display or posting of permits “in a conspicuous manner.” This shall mean at a place so designated by the inspector at the time of inspection. No person except an authorized representative of the Commissioner shall modify, remove, cover up, or otherwise make the permit less conspicuous in any way.

(Rule 1200-1-5-.06, continued)

- (2) **Loss of Permit Document.** Any organized camp establishment or operator who loses, misplaces, or destroys the permit or license shall, as soon as the fact becomes apparent, immediately apply for a duplicate. The fee for the duplicate permit shall be three dollars (\$3.00). This fee shall accompany the application for such duplicate.
- (3) **Penalties.** Any person who violates the provisions of these rules or fails to perform the reasonable requirements of such, after receipt of ten (10) days' written notice, may be subject to fines of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. Each day of continued violation, upon a finding of fault in a court of law, constitutes a separate offense. These violations shall include, but not limited to:
  - (a) operating under a suspended permit;
  - (b) operating without a permit;
  - (c) failure to allow an inspection; or
  - (d) failure to post permit.
- (4) **Waiver.** With the exception of required compliance with applicable building and fire codes, one or more of these regulations may be waived in whole or part when, in the opinion of the Commissioner, there are factors or circumstances which render compliance with such regulations unnecessary, provided that such waiver shall not constitute a health or safety hazard as determined by the Commissioner, and provided that such regulations waiver shall be in writing by the Commissioner. A request for waiver of one or more of these regulations shall be in writing to the Commissioner.
- (5) Any organized camp permitted at the effective time of these rules shall have one (1) year from the effective date of these rules to comply with any construction items.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§4-5-202, 53-3802, 68-110-101, 68-110-102, 68-110-103, 68-110-104, and 68-110-106.  
**Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 7, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed May 6, 2002; effective July 20, 2002.

**1200-1-5-.07 THROUGH 1200-1-5-.20 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. §53-3802. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 7, 1974. Repeal filed May 6, 2002; effective July 20, 2002.