

NFPA No. 501-1939

TRAILER CAMPS

**Regulation of Trailers
While Not In Transit**

**Prepared by N.F.P.A. Committee on
Trailers and Trailer Camps.**

**Adopted by
National Fire Protection Association**

1 9 3 9

Price: Five Cents

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SCOPE: These regulations shall apply to trailers intended for use as living quarters or for sleeping purposes. Trailers may be described as any structure, intended for human habitation, mounted on wheels and capable of being moved from place to place, either by its own power or by power supplied by other vehicle to which it may be attached.

Definitions.

In these regulations the following words are used as defined below:

"Shall" is intended to indicate requirements.

"Should" is intended to indicate recommendations, or that which is advised but not required.

"Approved" refers to approval by the authority having jurisdiction in the enforcement of the regulations.

The term "trailer camp" shall be construed to refer to any premises where more than one house trailer is parked for living or sleeping purposes, or any premises used or held out for the purpose of supplying to the public a parking space for more than one house trailer for living or sleeping purposes.

REGULATION OF TRAILERS WHILE NOT IN TRANSIT.

NOTE: The following recommendations for the regulation of trailers while parked in municipalities outside of, or within, established camps, being solely in the interest of fire prevention and protection, it should be understood that such recommendations should be supplemented by sanitary and such other regulations as may be necessary in the interest of public health, safety, and general welfare.

In the interest of fire prevention and protection, it is recommended that municipalities and other political subdivisions exercise the police power by regulating house trailers in the following particulars:

1. When Inside of Municipalities, Outside of Camps.

Overnight parking shall be prohibited in any street or land in the municipality, except in an approved camp, except that not more than one trailer of a non-paying guest of a resident of the municipality may park on the property of said resident for not exceeding 72 hours in any one month, providing the location of the trailer complies with the set back requirements of the zoning ordinance and is not less than 10 feet from any building or other trailer.

2. Trailer Camps.

(a) Because of the effect of a trailer camp on traffic, the location of such a camp and its entrances and exits should meet with the approval of the local Planning Board. Inasmuch as trailer camps constitute a business use of land comparable to a public garage, such camps as are operated commercially shall be excluded from residential districts, and shall be admitted to business districts only upon approval of the Zoning Board of Appeal, acting under their power of original jurisdiction after the applicant has filed the consents of at least 65 per cent of the property owners by number and area of ownership within 600 feet of all boundaries of the camp site. Although municipalities have the authority to locate municipal camps wherever they choose as a municipal use, it is recommended that as a matter of comity and fairness they comply with the requirements prescribed for commercially operated camps.

(b) It is further recommended that in the interest of fire prevention and protection trailer camps shall be required to provide the following:

(1) Access to a public street by directly abutting thereon, or by means of a private hard surface road not less than 20 feet wide, the camp to have hard surface and well-lighted roadways not less than 20 feet wide, to which every trailer unit shall have direct access.

(2) Sub-division into trailer units (the term "units" referring to a plot of land provided for the accommodation of not more than one trailer and not more than one towing car), each unit to contain not less than 1,000 square feet of ground area and be of not less than 25 feet in width, the boundary lines of such units to be plainly and permanently marked.

(3) Restriction of the parking of trailers and tow cars upon their respective units, so that no trailer or towing car is closer than 8 feet to the side boundary line of its unit.

(4) When the camp is not under full public fire protection of a municipality, there shall be provided adequate protection by a standard system of yard hydrants and hose houses, or a standard complement of extinguishers on wheels so located that all trailers shall be within 300 feet of an extinguisher.

(5) At least one standard fire alarm box, depending upon the size of the camp, connected with city fire alarm systems, or, in the absence of such systems, suitable telephone facilities accessible at all times.

(6) An adequate system of collection and safe disposal of rubbish; incinerators, where provided, to be well detached from all camp buildings and trailer units.

(7) Standard watchman and camp supervision when camp is not under police protection.

(8) Standard underground storage and handling of gasoline.

(9) Camp electric wiring and equipment complying with the National Electrical Code. Camp operators shall provide at each unit a means for connecting the trailer frame grounding terminal to an effective ground when outside current is provided.

NOTE: The word "standard" as used herein refers to equipment, systems, or modes of installation in compliance with the applicable Regulations or Recommended Practice of the National Fire Protection Association.

3. Removal of Wheels.

Removal of the wheels of a trailer, except temporarily for repair, or the permanent blocking up of a trailer, or the enclosure of the space beneath the trailer, whether situated in a camp or elsewhere, shall be construed to automatically convert the trailer into a permanent structure, subject to the requirements of the building code, housing laws, and all other laws and ordinances applicable to dwellings. Notice of such removal of wheels, blocking up, or enclosure, shall be given forthwith to the building inspector of the municipality or political subdivision in which the trailer is situated.