

Do I Need A Mass Gathering Permit for My Event?

According to the Town of Fryeburg Mass Gathering Ordinance, “No person, corporation, association or group of any kind shall sponsor, promote or conduct a mass gathering, as defined, or make one’s property available for a mass gathering by lease, contract, or otherwise within the Town of Fryeburg, until a permit has been obtained from the municipal officers of the Town of Fryeburg. Mass gatherings may consist of, but not be limited to: festivals, concerts, exhibitions, social gatherings, meetings, and entertainment. “

The annual Fryeburg Fair, school sponsored activities, and Town sponsored events are exempt from the permitting requirements. Please contact the Code Enforcement Officer or the Police Chief if you have any questions about whether an event is exempt.

A **Minor Mass Gathering** is defined as: Any gathering, attracting, or intending to attract, a continued audience or congregation of participants of 500 participants but fewer than 1000 persons for 1 hour or more.

Examples of minor mass gatherings may include, but not be limited to: a large wedding reception, birthday party, fundraising event, or meeting.

A **Major Mass Gathering** is defined as: Any gathering, attracting, or intending to attract, a continued audience or congregation of participants of 1000 or more persons for 1 hour or more.

Examples of a major mass gathering may include, but not be limited to: concerts, festivals, political rallies, demonstrations, sporting events.

A **Continuous Mass Gathering** is defined as: A mass gathering, major or minor, lasting for more than 24 hours or occurring on more than 1 occasion within a 6 month period.

Examples of a continuous mass gathering may include, but not be limited to: overnight concerts or festivals, weekly concert series, monthly events.

In summary, if your event or gathering is expected to have 500 or more people attend, then you need a Mass Gathering Permit from the Town of Fryeburg. The Town understands that it may be difficult to predict the number of people that may attend an event however it will be easier and less expensive to get a permit than to potentially have your event shut down and/or be subject to penalties if you think there is a chance that the 500 person limit will be reached.

Please contact the Code Enforcement Officer at the Town Office (935-2805) or the Police Chief at 935-2232 if you have questions.