

Use of Heaters and Tents for Outdoor Dining

(1) Heaters

- a. Approval from the City Building Department must be obtained prior to installation and use of a patio heater. Call 301-600-3827 to start the approval process. Information that will be needed as part of this process includes:
 - i. Model of the proposed heater, size of propane cylinders, and a spec/data sheet for the heater.
 - ii. Proposed location of propane cylinders not in use (see item 1-f, below).
- b. Specific heater models proposed for use shall be listed by a testing laboratory and approved by the City.
- c. Heater use shall be in accordance with the city fire code, manufacturer instructions, listing requirements and these guidelines. Where there are differing requirements, the more restrictive shall be used.
- d. Heaters shall be located at least 5 ft. away horizontally from buildings, the edge of overhangs and awnings, and parked vehicles.
- e. Propane cylinders shall be integral to the heater (cylinders shall not be remote from the heater).
- f. Propane cylinders (including spare and empty and those within heaters) shall not be stored within a building and shall be in a secure and approved location outside of a building.

(2) Tents

- a. A building permit is required for temporary use of a tent. Application to include:
 - i. Show site location of the tent with respect to parking, fire lanes, and buildings.
 - ii. Show details of the tent including:
 1. Whether the tent is enclosed on the sides.
 2. Size/dimensions.
 3. Location and type of exit(s).
 4. Flammability classification of tent material.
 - iii. Provide proposed seating layout within the tent.
 - iv. Indicate location and source of electric to the tent, if applicable.
 - v. Provide details on heating sources (also see item 2-k, below), including type of fuel, location and size of propane cylinders (if applicable), method of physical protection of cylinders, and proposed location of equipment when the tent is not in use (propane cylinders cannot be stored within buildings).

- b. Tents shall be used for seating/dining only, not for cooking operations or entertainment.
- c. Exits shall be required as determined by the plan reviewer/inspector, but in all cases at least one exit shall be provided with at least 32 inches of clear width provided at the exit.
- d. Exit signs/emergency lighting shall be provided as directed by the plan reviewer/inspector.
- e. Tent fabric shall meet flame propagation performance criteria contained in Test Method 2 of NFPA 701. Documentation must be provided to the City confirming this.
- f. Tents must be at least 10 ft. away from adjacent tents and buildings.
- g. A 10 ft. separation shall be maintained between tents and combustible materials including parked vehicles and vegetation.
- h. Flammable decorations are not permitted within tents.
- i. Open flames and smoking are not permitted within the tent.
- j. A fire extinguisher may be required by the plan reviewer/inspector depending on tent details.
- k. Use of propane heaters and patio heaters for tents:
 - i. Use of propane heaters and patio heaters within a tent is not permitted.
 - ii. Propane heaters can be located outside of the tent with air ducted into the tent.
 - iii. Heaters shall be listed/approved.
 - iv. Propane cylinders and heaters shall be located at least 10 ft. away from the tent, buildings and parked vehicles.
 - v. Propane cylinders (including spare and empty and those within heaters) shall not be stored within a building and shall be in a secure and approved location outside of a building.
- l. Electric:
 - i. Electrical components shall be listed for outdoor use.
 - ii. All electric components and cables shall be protected/covered appropriately.
 - iii. Electric heaters must be approved for use by the City.
 - iv. If a generator is used, it shall be located at least 5 ft. away from the tent and any buildings and away from the tent/building access points.

Direct any questions to:

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