



OLD TAPPAN BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

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RULES FOR PROPANE HEATERS

As restaurants extend outdoor dining into the colder months, there has been an increase in the use of propane pedestal heaters. We have assembled this fact sheet to aid in your restaurant's plan to safely use these heaters for the comfort of your patrons. Please use this fact sheet as a guide, but please also remember to refer to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation, maintenance, and storage.

- Fuel burning appliances, such as these heaters, shall be for **OUTDOOR USE ONLY**.
- Heaters shall **NOT** be used under tents or canopies.
- The fuel burning appliance must be commercial rated, utilizing an integral fuel gas container, and shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch.
- No propane/LP in containers exceeding 5 pounds capacity without approval from the Fire Official. Spare cylinders must be secured to prevent tipping over.
- During use, the owner/operator shall ensure the following:
 - Maintain a minimum clearance of at least five (5) feet from all structures and overhangs.
 - Maintain a minimum clearance of at least three (5) feet from all combustible materials (including umbrellas, awnings, etc.). Greater clearance may be required per the manufacturer's specification or the Fire Official.
 - Maintain a minimum clearance of at least twenty (20) feet from all tents and canopies.
 - Shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges.
 - Do not block any exit, means of egress, or sidewalks.
- During storage, the owner/operator shall ensure the following:
 - Propane heaters shall be properly secured when not in use.
 - Indoor storage of propane cylinders shall not be permitted without approval from the Fire Official.
 - If approved, indoor storage of cylinders may not be in a basement.
 - Cylinder storage must be at least five feet from an exit door.



Prior to approval, the following must be submitted to the Fire Official's office:

- Application for a Type 1 Permit permitting the use of an open flame
- Permit fee of \$54.00.
- A drawing of the proposed layout of heaters, tables, umbrellas, overhangs, awnings, tents, and canopies.
- The specifications of the heating unit(s)
- The proposed cylinder storage location

NJUFC Chapter 6

603.4.2 Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances. Portable gas-fired heating appliances located outdoors shall be in accordance with Sections 603.4.2.1 through 603.4.2.3.4.

603.4.2.1 Location. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located in accordance with Sections 603.4.2.1.1 through 603.4.2.1.4.

603.4.2.1.1 Prohibited locations. The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:

1. Inside of any occupancy where connected to the fuel gas container.
2. Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.
3. On exterior balconies.

Exception: As allowed in Section 6.20 of NFPA 58.

NFPA 58-14

6.20.2.6* Portable heaters, including salamanders, shall comply with the following:

(1) Portable heaters shall be equipped with an approved automatic device to shut off the flow of gas to the main burner and to the pilot, if used, in the event of flame extinguishment or combustion failure.

(2) Portable heaters shall be self-supporting unless designed for cylinder mounting.

(3) Portable heaters shall not be installed utilizing cylinder valves, connectors, regulators, manifolds, piping, or tubing as structural supports.

(4) Portable heaters having an input of more than 50,000 Btu/hr (53 MJ/hr) shall be equipped with either a pilot that must be lighted and proved before the main burner can be turned on or an approved electric ignition system.

603.4.2.1.2 Clearance to buildings. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from buildings.

603.4.2.1.3 Clearance to combustible materials. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet (1524mm) to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings.

603.4.2.1.4 Proximity to exits. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet (1524 mm) of exits or exit discharges.

603.4.2.2 Installation and operation. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and operated in accordance with Sections 603.4.2.2.1 through 603.4.2.2.4.

603.4.2.2.1 Listing and approval. Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used.

603.4.2.2.2 Installation and maintenance. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

603.4.2.2.3 Tip-over switch. Portable outdoor gas fired heating appliances shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees (0.26 rad) from the vertical.

603.4.2.2.4 Guard against contact. The heating element or combustion chamber of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons.