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Informational Bulletin

Standard for Storage and Use of Portable Outdoor Gas-Fired Heating Appliances

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide guidance and information to help businesses and assembly occupancies to safely store and use portable gas-fired heating appliances while operating within the fire code.

SCOPE:

The Fire Code Official is authorized to regulate the use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances, in accordance with the provisions of the Fire Code. The information contained within this document is to serve as a guideline for the use of such equipment.

AUTHORITY:

2019 California Fire Code (CFC): 1.11.2, 105.6.27, 603, Chap. 31, Chap. 61, NFPA 58

DEFINITIONS:

CFC

- Shall refer to the 2019 edition of the California Fire Code, as adopted by the applicable jurisdiction.

OUTDOOR HEATING APPLIANCE

- Shall refer to Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliance, as regulated by the California Fire Code.

LPG/LP- GAS

- Liquefied Petroleum Gas –A material which is composed predominantly of the following hydrocarbons or mixtures of them: propane, propylene, butane and butylene's.

NFPA 58

- Shall refer to the 2020 edition of the National Fire Protection Association Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.

APPLICABLE PERMIT(S):

No permits required at this time.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Outdoor heating appliances may be permitted in outdoor locations provided that the use complies with the requirements within this document, and the California Fire Code.



1. Outdoor Gas-Fired Heating Appliances - In Use:

- a. Outdoor heating appliances are prohibited inside tents, canopies, temporary membrane structures and on exterior balconies; and inside any occupancy when connected to the fuel gas container [CFC 603.4.2.1.1].
- b. Outdoor heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of buildings, lot lines and adjoining properties [CFC 603.4.2.1.2, Table 6104.3].
- c. Outdoor heating appliances in use shall not be located beneath or within 5 feet of combustible decorations, combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades, or similar combustible material attachments to buildings [CFC 603.4.2.1.3].
- d. Outdoor heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges [CFC 603.4.2.1.4].
- e. Only listed and approved outdoor heating appliances, utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance, may be used [CFC 603.4.2.2.1].
- f. Outdoor heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and their listing [CFC 603.4.2.2.2].
- g. Outdoor 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 from vertical [CFC 603.4.2.2.3].
- h. Outdoor heating appliances shall have their heating element or combustion chamber permanently guarded to prevent accidental contact by persons or material [CFC 603.4.2.2.4].
- i. The maximum individual capacity of gas containers used in connection with outdoor heating appliances shall not exceed 20 pounds [CFC 603.4.2.3.3].
 - j. Facilities using outdoor heating appliances shall have compliant portable fire extinguishers (minimum 2-A:10-B:C) within 75 feet of the space where such appliances are used or stored [CFC 906].

2. LP – Gas Cylinders in Storage:

- a. Storage of portable LP-gas containers of 1,000 pounds (454 kg) or less, whether filled, partially filled or empty, at consumer sites [CFC 6109.1] ****Note**** equal to fifty or less 20 lb (4.7 gal) bottles.
- b. LP-Gas cylinders shall be located in a manner which minimizes exposure to excessive temperature rise, physical damage, or tampering [CFC 6109.2].
- c. LP-Gas cylinders shall be stored or used in an upright position. Cylinder outlet valves shall be closed or plugged [CFC 6109.3 and 6109.8].
- d. LP-Gas cylinders shall not be stored on roofs [CFC 6109.6].

- e. LP-Gas cylinders shall not be located in basements, pits, or similar locations where heavier-than-air gas might collect [CFC 6109.7].
- f. Storage in buildings is prohibited except as provided in [CFC 6109.9]. Department of Transportation (DOTn) specification cylinders with maximum water capacity of 2.7 pounds (1.2 kg) used in completely self-contained hand torches and similar applications are allowed to be stored or displayed in a building open to the public. The quantity of LP-gas shall not exceed 200 pounds
- g. LP-Gas cylinder storage outside of buildings shall be located at least 5 feet away from any doorway or opening to a building/area having two or more exits. Such storage shall be located at least 10 feet away from doorways or openings to buildings/areas having only one exit. [CFC table 6109.12 and 105.6.27].
- h. LPG cylinders shall be protected by [CFC 6109.13 and 6109.14]: A lockable, ventilated enclosure made of metal construction. NFPA 58 Sec 8.4.2.1(2)

For questions or concerns; please call Coronado Fire Department at (619) 522-7374
