



NEW MILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

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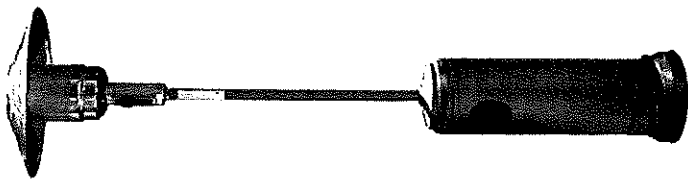
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## FIRE SAFETY FACT SHEET

### Propane Pedestal Heaters

As COVID-19 has led to an increase in restaurants offering outdoor dining there has been a look into outdoor dining extending into colder months. We have assembled this list to aid in your restaurant's decision to use these heaters safely. Please use this fact sheet as a guide but please also refer to the manufacturer's instructions for safe maintenance and operation.

- Fuel burning appliances, such as these are for outdoor use only, with attention to the clearances listed below. They cannot be used under canopies or tents.
- The fuel burning appliance must be commercially rated.
- Locations during use:
  - Maintain clearance of at least five feet horizontally from structures and overhands.
  - Maintain a clearance of three feet vertically and two feet horizontally from combustibles or as per manufacturer's specification and as per Fire official approval.
  - Maintain a clearance of twenty feet from all tents and canopies.
  - Do not block egress ways or sidewalks.
- Locations for storage:
  - Ensure that storage of the heaters is secure when not in use.
  - Indoor storage of propane cylinders shall be approved by the Fire Official.
  - Indoor storage of cylinders may not be in 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:

- A drawing of the proposed layout of heaters, tables and canopies.
- The specifications of the heating unit(s).
- The proposed cylinder storage location.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the New Milford Fire Prevention Bureau.

## Misc Guidelines

1. Propane heaters are not permitted under canopies or tents.
2. Although this isn't necessarily our responsibility, but at this time, to comply with the executive order, 50% of the sides must be open.
3. The fire code classifies a tent as having 25% or more of the sides down.
4. November 1st, we set the clocks back and it will start to get darker earlier. If lighting is installed under these canopies, it must be done with a permit and in accordance with the NEC.
5. To be able to heat these canopies, permits must be taken out with the building departments and all installations must conform to the applicable standards.
6. Our jurisdiction on tents, canopies, membrane structures ENDS on November 30th. As of December 1st, everything becomes a Uniform Construction Code issue and permits must be obtained from the local Building Department. The big issue at that point will be snow load. All canopies and tents must be snow load rated.

## 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.