



Cook Off Fire Safety

Applicability:

The intent of these rules is to provide a safe cooking environment for outdoor cooking where a food service permit is not required according to Chapter 10 of the City of Alvin Code of Ordinances.

General Requirements

- Electrically powered food warming devices (Roaster Oven or Crock Pot) are approved for use in tents or canopies if the devices do not produce flames, smoke, or grease laden vapors.
- Exposed open flame cooking devices shall not be used within booths, tents, or canopies that have combustible overhangs.
- All devices and appliances shall be utilized on fire-resistant surfaces, with adequate clearance from any combustible materials.
- Exposed open flame cooking devices may be used within cooking booths that are noncombustible. (metal frame and metal roof)
- Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire, or heat, shall not be in or within 10 feet of a tent or canopy.

LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gases)

- LP-gas used for cooking/warming shall be limited to five gallons or 25 pounds per 900 square feet of concentrated area.
- All LP-gas cylinders shall be secured from tipping in the upright position and protected from damage.
- All LPG gas cylinders not in use shall be stored 10' outside of the cooking area.

Deep Fat Frying

- Deep frying is regulated as an exposed open flame device with additional conditions.
- Deep frying includes cooking equipment made specifically for deep fat frying, as well as any appliance containing oil being heated.
- Deep fat fryers shall not be used within booths, tents, or canopies that have combustible overhangs.
- It is recommended that when using a deep fat fryer outside, a metal covering should be available to cover the fryer in case of rain.
- Deep fat fryers are limited to five gallons or 35 pounds of cooking oil or grease per 900 square feet of concentrated area.



Solid Fuel (Wood or Charcoal)

- Cooking devices that use wood or charcoal for fuel are open flame devices and shall not be used within booths, tents, or canopies that have combustible overhangs.
- A metal pan shall be provided under the fire box to catch hot embers. Hot embers shall be disposed of in an enclosed metal can.
- Solid fueled cooking devices shall be kept away from combustible materials. The distance shall be dependent on the size of the cooking equipment and shall be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office.

Electric Cooking/warming Equipment

- Electric cooking equipment would include microwave ovens, electric ovens, electric steam table, roaster ovens and crock pots.
- Electrically powered food cooking devices may be approved for use in tents or canopies (non-cooking) if the devices do not produce flames, smoke, or grease laden vapors.
- All devices and appliances shall be utilized on fire-resistant surfaces, with adequate clearance from any combustible materials.
- If electrically powered cooking appliances are utilized on a table, the table shall be flame-resistant, or a flame-resistant covering shall be placed under the appliance.

Warming Devices

- Devices utilizing gel or wick type fuels which do not create grease-laden vapors may be used within cooking booths provided the surface beneath the warming device is covered with foil and there is 36" clearance to any combustible materials.

Fire Extinguishers

- All cooking operations require a minimum 2A:20BC rated fire extinguisher 1 per 900 square feet of concentrated area. (five-pound fire extinguisher)
- Fire Extinguishers shall be readily visible; not obscured from view and easily accessible.
- Portable fire extinguishers shall be inspected annually and shall have a current inspection tag.



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Electrical Setups

- All electrical service shall be per the current local electrical code.
- All electrical services must be GFCI protected.
- Only listed power strips with circuit breaker protection are allowed as multi-plug adapters.
- Extension cords shall be 3-wire grounded type, adequately protected, secured from mechanical and environmental damage, free from splices and grounding pin intact.
- All power Cables (R/V connections, 220-volt connections) shall be 4-wire grounded type, adequately protected, secured from mechanical and environmental damage, free from splices and equipment ground intact.
- Extension cords shall be protected from foot traffic and other damage.

Generators

- Generators and gasoline are generally discouraged.
- Gasoline shall be stored in safety cans and secure from tipping. Gasoline is limited to five gallons in a 900 square feet concentrated area.
- Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 10 feet and shall be accompanied by a dedicated 2A20BC fire extinguisher.

Tents and Canopies

- All tents or canopies shall be secured to the ground in a manner so that they cannot be moved or lifted.
- Tents greater than 700 square feet shall be flame retardant and require a separate permit from the fire marshal.
- Tents greater than 700 square feet shall be accompanied by a dedicated 2A20BC Fire extinguisher.
- Tents greater than 700 square feet that are enclosed by three or more sides shall have a minimum of two exits identified with a lighted exit sign. Additional exits may be required by the calculated occupant load.
- Cooking is not permitted under a tent, canopy, or membrane structure.



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Housekeeping

- Trash containers shall be emptied regularly.
- Combustible materials shall not be allowed to accumulate to cause a fire hazard.
- All cooking surfaces shall be cleaned to prevent the accumulation of grease.

*This information sheet provides the minimum requirements for **outdoor cooking**. Additional fire and life safety requirements may be necessary depending on the situation. These requirements will be at the discretion of the fire marshal. During the fire marshal inspection vendors should be prepared to make any necessary changes to comply with these requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MFC".

Matt Cornell, Fire Marshal
IAAI CFI, CFI V