



Informational Bulletin
From the Office of the Fire Marshal

Heating Tents Safely

(For Tents 400 sf or Less; for Tents Without Walls 700 sf or less)

December 2020

Heating of Tents and Membrane Structures

This document is intended to provide guidance to business erecting tents of 400 sf. (or less) for public use during the Governor ordered restrictions resulting from the Covid19 pandemic.

All tents and canopies shall be treated with flame retardant if propane heaters are to be used. (Flame retardant by manufacturer only.)

Use of propane heaters shall be by manufacturer's listing/requirements for distance from combustibles. Distance requirements apply regardless of tent/canopy flame retardant.

Use of more than one tent/canopy with a combined total area in excess of 400 sf. shall have a 12' separation between each structure. Otherwise, IFC regulations apply and a permit through the Fire Marshal's Office is required.



Patio-Type Propane Heaters

Allowed Only if Tent/Canopy is Flame Retarded **and** Placed Per Manufactures Listed Distance From Combustibles (including ceiling/over-head)



Infrared Propane Heaters

Allowed Only if Tent/Canopy is Flame Retarded. Must be Placed a Minimum of 3 feet from Combustibles

Additional Acceptable Installations

1. **Ducted Tent Heaters** – Electric, propane, or natural gas direct or indirect ducted tent heaters specifically designed for heating tents and other enclosed spaces are allowed where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Heaters must have an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or other Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) listing.



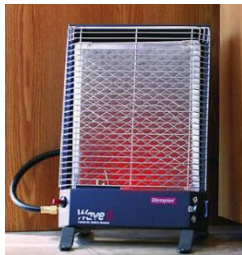
Ducted Tent Heater Examples

2. **Portable Electric Space Heaters** – Portable electric space heaters are allowed inside tents. Portable heaters must have UL or other NRTL listing, over-temperature protection and must have clearances as required by the manufacturer, but in no case less than 3 feet from any persons or combustible material including the tent or sidewall fabric. Heaters setting on the ground must have a tip-over switch, suspended heaters must be securely installed. The power supply shall utilize a single listed outdoor extension cord rated for the amperage and include GFCI protection or be provided with temporary power supply approved by the Building Official.



Portable or Suspended Electric Heater Examples

3. **Catalytic Propane Heaters** – Propane or natural gas fueled catalytic heaters which heat by chemical reaction and have no combustion are allowed inside tents. Catalytic heaters must have UL or other NRTL listing, tip-over switch, and maintain clearances as required by the manufacturer, but in no case less than 3 feet from any persons or combustible material including the tent or sidewall fabric. The propane source cylinder is NOT allowed within the tent.



Catalytic Heater Examples

4. **Heating and HVAC Systems installed under an approved Building Permit** – HVAC systems that are reviewed, inspected, and approved by the Building Department under the appropriate permit are allowed.