

Outdoor Expansion Tent and Space Heater Guidelines

Santa Cruz Fire Department

Temporary Structures (Tents/Canopies):

- **Any tent over 400 sq./ft. or canopies over 700 sq./ft. and/or canopies with an approved heating device will require a permit issued by the fire department (SCZFD)**
 - **To obtain a no-cost permit please contact Kelly Kumec in the Fire Department at kkumec@cityofsantacruz.com to complete the form and schedule a site visit from our Fire Department.**
- **Only two (2) side walls** of the temporary structure (tent/canopy) will be allowed to be in place and must be non-adjacent, meaning they run parallel to each other. View the State guidance for tent walls [here](#).
- Clear and unobstructed egress pathway(s), minimum of **36"**, shall be maintained at ALL times
- Fire Extinguisher(s) (2A:10BC) shall be in place and maintained in or adjacent to the tent/canopy
- All temporary structures shall be properly anchored and secured to prevent movement or collapse from wind or other unforeseen conditions/actions
- ALL temporary structures and their sidewall shall meet NFPA 701, CPAI-84 standards to ensure all temporary structures are fire resistive
- Tent/canopy placement shall **NOT** block fire department access.
- Tent/canopy placement shall **NOT** obstruct visibility of any roadway signage (stop signs, cross walks, etc.).
- **NO SMOKING** will be allowed at any time.

Open Flame Heaters (e.g. propane, diesel, kerosene fueled):

- Are permitted if they are an outdoor approved type, are located **5'** from any building or permanent structure
- Are **ONLY** permitted under temporary structures (tent/canopies) that meet NFPA 701, CPAI-84 standards to ensure all temporary structures are fire resistive – **must be reviewed by SCZFD and receive no-cost permit**
- All open flame heaters shall have a minimum clearance of **36"** on all sides (top included) from ALL combustible materials. For additional fire safety, it is highly recommended that on the areas located directly above heaters, a non-combustible material be installed/maintained.
- Are permitted outside of temporary structures provided there is a clearance of **36"** on all sides from combustible materials
- Shall **NOT** obstruct the clear path of exits and must be at least **5'** from exit or exit discharges.
- Heater controls and fuel sources must be locked or secured to prevent unauthorized use by anyone other than employees
- Heaters must be secured or monitored to prevent unauthorized movement after the safe location/placement is identified.
- Heaters will be properly secured/stored during non-business hours.
- The maximum amount of portable 5 gallon LPG tanks on site shall be no more than **30**.
- All portable LPG tanks will be properly secured/nested, stored no less than 10' from a sidewalk/public access area and shall not block egress pathways.
- Fire Extinguisher(s) (2A:10BC) shall be in place and maintained in or adjacent to the tent/canopy near the location of heater(s)

*These guidelines are approved **ONLY** for COVID-19 and the subsequent outdoor expansion of businesses. Once normal business operations are allowed to resume, based on state and local health recommendations, these guidelines will no longer be applicable. **Guidelines effective as of 12.3.20. Any unforeseen conditions that would present a fire hazard, or would contribute to rapid spread of fire, or would delay or interfere with a rapid exit from the temporary structure, which are not covered within these guidelines, shall be immediately abated or corrected and subject to review by the fire department.***

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Electric Heaters, Lighting, and Extension Cords:

- Electric heaters are allowed under tents/canopies with a minimum clearance of 24" on all sides (top included) from ALL combustibile materials. For additional fire safety, it is highly recommended that on the areas located directly above heaters, a non-combustible material be installed/maintained.
- All electronic appliances shall be listed and approved by UL, FM or other approved testing agencies
- Extension cords shall be protected from both environmental and physical damage at all times
- Extension cords shall be clearly marked to avoid or prevent a tripping hazard
- Outdoor lighting must be provided using low wattage bulbs only
- Solar lighting is encouraged
- Hard wired lighting, especially on public property, is subject to electrical permitting and building code requirements
- Lighting and other electric appliances shall be listed for outdoor use by UL, FM or another approved testing agency.
- Lighting fixtures may be temporarily affixed to the exterior portion of the building occupied by the restaurant facing the outdoor dining area, provided that any such lighting meets applicable California Electrical Code standards.
- Generators are not allowed to be used as a power source for any equipment in the outdoor expansion area

For questions about these guidelines please contact Rebecca Unitt in the Economic Development Department at runitt@cityofsantacruz.com or Robert Oatey in the Fire Department at roatey@cityofsantacruz.com.

VIEW THE FULL TEMPORARY OUTDOOR EXPANSION PROGRAM GUIDELINES:
www.ChooseSantaCruz.com/OutdoorExpansion

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