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Mobile Fire – Rescue Department Bureau of Fire Prevention



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Fire and Life Safety – Cooking Restriction for Tents

The Mobile Fire-Rescue Department enforces the 2009 International Fire Code and is the reference for the following Fire and Life Safety requirements.

Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any other flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of a tent or other structure open to the public unless approved by the fire code official (**2404.7**).

Exception - Approval to cook in a limited size tent is considered when a Fire and Life Safety Inspection confirms the following:

- Tent, canopy or awning material does not pose a fire hazard (**2404.15.5**)
- Separation of 20 ft. minimum from other tents or structures is maintained (**2404.15.5**)
- Area of tent, canopy or awning is 12 ft. x 12 ft. (144 sq. ft.) or less
- Placed on solid ground free of hay, straw or similar combustible materials (**2404.21**)
- Cooking equipment is not located within 10 ft of combustible materials (**2404.15.3**)
- Class K fire extinguisher readily accessible and available for use (**904.11.5**)
- Class 2A 10BC fire extinguisher readily accessible and available for use (**Table 906.3**)
- Location of vehicles or equipment does not obstruct means of egress (**2404.18.3**)
- LP-gas containers shall be located outside with safety release valves pointed away from the tent, canopy or awning (**2404.16.2**)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Mobile County Health Department regulations are more restrictive for Commercial Food Service Establishments. A Fire Code compliant Concession Trailer or Stand with a Type 1 hood ventilation and fire suppression system may be required.

Billy Roach, District Chief
Bureau of Fire Prevention
Fire Code Enforcement Division

2009 International Fire Code Reference Information

2404.7 Open or exposed flame. Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent.

2404.15.3 Location. Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of exits or combustible materials.

2404.15.5 Cooking tents. Tents with sidewalks or drops where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet

2404.16.2 Location of containers. LP-gas containers shall be located outside. Safety release valves shall be pointed away from the tent or membrane structure.

2404.18.3 Location. The location of vehicles or equipment shall not obstruct means of egress

2404.21 Combustible vegetation. Combustible vegetation that could create a fire hazard shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent or membrane structure, and from areas within 30 feet of such structures