

WINTER COVID-19 TENTS HEATING AND FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES



Some Carlsbad businesses are offering outdoor areas during COVID-19 to help keep patrons safe, featuring outdoor dining and other commercial activities under tents.

With the onset of winter, businesses may want to heat these outdoor areas for the comfort of their customers. This document provides guidance for businesses to continue operating outdoors safely and responsibly. As a reminder, all businesses activating outdoor space for business operations must have:

- 1) A Private Property Permit (P3); and / or
- 2) A Sidewalk Café / Curb Café permit if applicable; and
- 3) A Tent Permit if applicable; and
- 4) An electrical permit if an electric heater will be used

General Considerations for tents and canopies

Follow the considerations below to ensure responsible operations.

- No more than 50% of the structure's perimeter can be closed.
- A clear path for egress must be maintained at all times.
- Temporary structures must be weighted, anchored or secured to the ground, but cannot be anchored with any method that requires screwing, cutting or drilling into the public right of way (i.e. on streets or sidewalks).

Heating and Safety Guidelines

Several fire and life safety issues **must** be considered when heating outdoor tents. The City's Guidelines on Heating Outdoor Tents is intended to help businesses safely heat tents installed for activation of outdoor spaces during COVID-19.

Open Flames

- Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire, heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, or any other unapproved devices **shall not be permitted** inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or membrane structure

Heaters

The city is providing information on outdoor heaters for tents for your convenience and is not endorsing any particular style, model or brand of heater. Before purchase or installation of an outdoor heater check with your contractor and insurance company to ensure all safety and operational guidelines are met.

- Open-flame heaters or any other unapproved devices are prohibited in tents and within 20 feet of tents. This includes devices using propane or flammable/combustible liquids (*CA Fire Code 3107.4 and CCR Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 8*).

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- Some types of heating devices can be approved. These may include forced air heaters and listed/labelled portable electric space heaters. Heating devices must be shown on plans and approved by Fire Prevention prior to use.
- When approved, heater shall not be operated within 3 feet of any combustible material.

Electrical

- Extension cords must be listed/labeled for outdoor use and protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.

Flame Resistant Material

- All tents used in California shall be made from non-flammable material or one of the following **flame-resistant fabrics** or materials approved by the State Fire Marshal:
 - Fabrics complying with the State Fire Marshal's requirements for flame resistance for exterior use, as set forth in CCR Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 8 ; or
 - Fabrics complying the with flame-resistance requirements set forth in CPAI-84 (this is allowed for small tents with an occupant load of fewer than 10 persons).
- **Label:** All tents, canopies, sidewalls, shall be labeled in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 19. Each section of top and sidewall shall have a durable label bearing the following information: Seal of Registration or Certification Statement that the materials used in the manufacture or the item meet the flame-resistance requirements of CPAI-84.

Important permitting notes

- Tents / canopies or other temporary structures covering an aggregate of over 700 square feet without a wall or over 400 square feet with a single wall will require a permit from the Fire Prevention Division.
- Any modifications to approved temporary structures need to be approved. This includes expansion of membrane structure, re-organizing seating plans or modifications to exits.
- Have questions? Ready to submit your permit? Contact Fire Prevention via email at FirePreventionPublic@CarlsbadCA.gov or by phone at 760-602-4665.