

Fire Department Conditions

The following information consists of the minimum requirements for operating any type of food service during special events (private or City sponsored). All references are from the California Fire Code or Title 19.

- Tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 200 square feet and canopies in excess of 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the Fire Code Official. (Section 2403.2 of the California Fire Code)
 - **Exception:** Fabric canopies open on all sides which comply with all of the following:
 - Individual canopies having a maximum size of 700 square feet.
 - The aggregate area of multiple canopies placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet, not exceeding 700 square feet total
 - A minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents.
- If one of the above tents, membrane structures or canopies is used then:
 - **Label-** Membrane structures, tents or canopies shall have a permanently affixed label bearing the identification of size and fabric or material type. (Section 2404.3 of California Fire Code)
 - **Certification-** An affidavit or affirmation shall be submitted to the fire code official and a copy retained on the premises on which the tent or air-supported structure is located. The affidavit shall attest to the following information relative to the flame propagation performance criteria of the fabric: (Section 2404.4 of the California Fire Code)
 1. Names and address of the owner of the tent, canopy or air-supported structure.
 2. Date the fabric was last treated with flame-retardant solution.
 3. Trade name or kind of chemical used in treatment.
 4. Name of person or firm treating the material.
 5. Name of testing agency and test standard by which the fabric was tested.
- Vendors utilizing LPG as a fuel source will maintain the cylinders outside of the tent so that vented gas will not accumulate within the structure. Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of 500 gallons or less shall have a minimum separation between the containers and structures of not less than 10 feet. Portable LP-gas containers with a capacity of more than 500 gallons shall have a minimum separation between the containers and structures of not less than 25 feet. Also, portable LP-gas containers, piping, valves and fittings which are located outside and are being used to fuel equipment inside a tent, canopy or membrane structure shall be adequately protected to prevent tampering, damage by vehicles or other hazards and shall be located in an approved location. Portable LP-gas containers shall be securely fastened in place to prevent unauthorized movement. (Section 2404.16 of the California Fire Code.)
- All solid fuel cooking appliances (Example: BBQ) whether or not under a hood, with fireboxes 5 cubic feet in volume shall have a minimum 2.5 gallon or two 1.5 gallon Class K wet-chemical portable fire extinguishers. When hazard areas include deep fat fryers, listed Class K portable fire extinguishers shall be provided. (Sections 904.11.5.1 and 904.44.5.2 of the California Fire Code)
- 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, canopy or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official. (Section 2404.7 of the California Fire Code)

- Extension cords and power taps will be of an approved type, and maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. (Section 605.5.3 of the California Fire Code)
- Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 ft. (Section 2404.15.5 of the California Fire Code)
- Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of a tent, canopy or membrane structure. (Section 2404.15.6 of the California Fire Code)
- Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet. All road blocks will be coordinated through the Police Department and the Fire Department to make sure this standard is met. Parking in the fire lane is prohibited, except for temporary loading and unloading of equipment and supplies. (Section 503.2.1 of the California Fire Code)
- If you have an ansul system in a portable trailer or a table top fryer with a portable ansul system attached; they are required to be serviced every six months and after activation of the system. (Section 904.11.6.4 of the California Fire Code)
- All fire extinguishers are to be serviced annually. Fire Code Officials will check tags on extinguisher to verify the last time they were serviced. Extinguishers also need to be serviced if discharged. (Title 19, Chapter 3, Article 6)

The Vacaville Fire Department will conduct an inspection of the special event site and all food vendors prior to the event being open to the public. Violations of the above requirements shall be corrected before the event can open and/or the vendor is allowed to operate.

If you have any questions, please contact the Vacaville Fire Prevention Bureau at 449-5453.