

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
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Cooking Vendor, Tent & Canopy Guidelines



NJ UNIFORM FIRE CODE: COOKING VENDOR GUIDELINES

- The following are minimum guidelines for each cooking vendor at festivals, carnivals, etc.
- A site plan may be required by the Fire Official prior to event.

FIRE SAFETY PERMIT: Cooking vendor permits – a permit application shall be submitted through RIMS Online for each vendor for every event.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a); All cooking vendors shall be required to apply for a fire safety permit through RIMS Online, issued by the NJ Division of Fire Safety. All permits shall be made available to the fire official upon inspection.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(c)1; 1E05/1L12 Type Permit Fee \$42.00-NO CASH will be accepted-vendors shall apply and pay the permit fee through RIMS Online. Permits will not be issued unless payment is made in full. This is an application processing fee and is not refundable.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(f); The fire official upon inspection may deny or revoke a permit at any time; this can be due to failure to meet the permit conditions, unabated fire code violations or unsafe conditions.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER: All cooking vendors shall supply their own fire extinguishers.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 906.2; All fire extinguishers shall comply with NFPA 10/2002. All fire extinguishers shall have a valid dated inspection tag, good of one year.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.11.5; Class K portable fire extinguishers are required for cooking with vegetable or animal oils and fats.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.11.5.1; Class K portable fire extinguishers are required for cooking with solid fuel.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.11.5.2; Class K portable fire extinguishers required for deep fat fryers. (See 2006 IFC-NJ for size and quantity)

PROPANE TANK:
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3003.5.3; Propane tanks shall be secured, to prevent falling over.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3801.1; Propane tanks and equipment shall comply with NFPA 58/2004.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3803.2.1; Propane tanks shall not be taken into buildings/tents, (see 2006-1 for exceptions)

Mobile Canteens & Cooking Trailers:
N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(g) All cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors shall be equipped with a ventilating hood, duct, and automatic fire suppression system.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.6; Dry chemical extinguishing systems shall be maintained and inspected semi-annually as per NFPA 17/2002.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.5; Wet chemical extinguishing systems shall be maintained and inspected semi-annually as per NFPA 17A/2002.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 609.2; Excessive grease and residue buildup on kitchen exhaust systems, cleaning required.

MISCELLANEOUS:
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 104.3; All appliances shall be listed and labeled and approved by the fire code official. (No homemade appliances).
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2403.8.2; No vehicles shall be parked within 5 feet of tents or canopies.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2404.15.3; Suitable barricades shall be provided to maintain a distance of 5 feet between the heat producing appliance and the public.

- Propane tanks between 4 and 40 lbs shall have an Overfill Protection Device for filling in NJ.
- Propane tanks shall be hydro tested every 12 years, and not dented or badly rusted.
- Regulator shall be in good condition and the relief valve shall face away from the public areas.
- All plastic type protective caps shall be removed from all propane tanks before operating.
- Hoses shall not be frayed or cracked, and there shall not be any type of tape on the hose.
- Hoses shall not be covered with grease and shall not be swollen.
- Hoses shall not create a tripping hazard
- Only approved lighter fluid shall be used for charcoal grills.
- Sterno warmers may be used provided the fuel containers are properly protected from being knocked over and if the fuel containers are properly enclosed within the warmer units.