



PORTSMOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Guide for Portable Outdoor Gas-Fired Heating Appliances

The following information only pertains to portable, outdoor fuel-gas heating appliances and systems such as outdoor patio heaters. This bulletin does not cover the use or application of open-flame appliances such as portable fireplaces. All appliances must be approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau prior to use. Email FirePrevention@CityofPortsmouth.com for more information.

- Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used.
- Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- When a conflict exists between a code and manufacturer's instructions, the most restrictive shall prevail.
- Storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:
 - o Inside of any occupancy when connected to the fuel gas container
 - o Inside or under tents, canopies and membrane structures
 - o On exterior balconies
- Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located not less than 5 feet from buildings.
- Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings.
- Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges.
- Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees.
- The heating element or combustion chamber of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons or materials.
- Only approved DOTn or ASME gas containers shall be used.
- Replacement of fuel gas containers in portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be conducted while the public is present.
- The maximum individual capacity of gas containers used in connection with portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not exceed 20 pounds.
- The maximum allowable quantity (MAQ) for liquid petroleum (LP) gas storage in an assembly occupancy is 2 pounds.

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- In a fully sprinkled building, the MAQ for LP gas storage is 4 pounds.
- Stored cylinders shall not be located near exits, stairways, or in areas normally used, or intended to be used for the safe egress of occupants including seating and waiting areas.
- Empty cylinders shall be considered full cylinders for the purposes of determining the MAQ
- Cylinders shall not be stored on roofs
- Screw-on-type caps or collars shall be in place on all cylinders stored, regardless of whether they are full, partially full, or empty, and cylinder outlet valves shall be closed.