

Township of Lumberton

Bureau of Fire Prevention

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NJ UNIFORM FIRE CODE: COOKING GUIDELINES

The following are minimum guidelines for each cooking vendor/applicant.

A site plan may be required by the Fire Official prior to event.

FIRE SAFETY PERMIT:

Cooking vendor/applicants permits – a permit application shall be submitted for each vendor/applicant for every event.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a); All cooking vendors/applicants shall be required to apply for a fire safety permit, issued by Lumberton Township Fire Bureau. All permits shall be made available to the fire official upon inspection.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(c)1; Type Permit 1 Fee will be accepted, vendors/applicate shall apply and pay the permit fee. Permits will not be issued unless payment is made in full. This is an application processing fee and is nonrefundable.

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/ applicants shall supply their own fire extinguishers, a minimum of a 2-A;10-B:C extinguisher shall be within 25 feet of cooking for propane and charcoal grills.

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 for 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 (propane cylinder inside of a milk crate is acceptable).

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.

UNIFORM FIRE CODE: TENTS/CANOPIES

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a); All vendors/ applicants with tents/canopies meeting the below, shall be required to apply for a Type 1 fire safety permit for each vendor/ applicants for every event, issued by the Lumberton Township Fire Bureau. All permits shall be made available to the fire official/fire inspector upon inspection.

- All tents/canopies greater than 900 square feet with or without side panels will require a separate permit for each. (up to 16800 square feet)
- All tents/canopies greater than 30 feet in any dimension will require a separate permit for each. (up to 140 feet)
- All tents/canopies that will remain in place for fewer than 180 days.
- All tents/canopies that are used or occupied between April 1 and November 30.
- All tents/canopies that do not have a permanent anchoring system or foundation.
- All tents/canopies that contain platforms and bleachers up to 11 feet in height.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(c)1; Type 1 Permit Fee, will be accepted, vendors/ applicants shall apply and pay the permit fee. Permits will not be issued unless payment is made in full. This is an application processing fee and is nonrefundable.

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.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2404.12; Fire extinguishers - at least one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or two portable fire extinguishers with a minimum 2-A rating each, shall be provided in/under all tents as required by section 906.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2404.2; Tents/canopies shall be constructed of fire retardant materials or be properly treated as per NFPA 701/1999. Proper documentation shall be provided by the vendor upon inspection.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2404.5; Combustible materials and excessive trash shall not be located within any tent or canopy (min. 20 feet clearance).

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2404.7; Exposed flames: Gasoline, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved open flame shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or canopy.

- NO cooking under tents.
- NO deep fryers shall be under tents.
- NO cooking with grease laden vapors under tents.
- **Note: See Bulletin 2006-1 for further information and exceptions.**

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2403.12.6; Exit signs are required when the exit serves and occupant load of 50 or more.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2403.12.6.1; Exit signs shall be illuminated. 1. For occupant loads of 300 or less; or 2. An approved emergency system, for occupant loads greater than 300.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2403.12.7; Means of egress shall be illuminated from a separate circuit or source of power. (Not less than 1 foot candle (11lux) at floor level)

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 2403.12.8; Means of egress, width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained at all times.

- Interior finish, decorative materials and furnishings shall comply with Chapter 8.
- Occupant Load and Number of Exits shall be approved by the NJ Division of Fire Safety.

NJ UCC TENT PERMIT REQUIRED: Larger than 16800 square feet in size, greater than 140 feet in any dimension, bleachers or platforms higher than 11 feet, up for more than 180 days and used between December 1 and March 31 or having a permanent anchoring system or foundation.



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BULLETIN: 2006-01

SUBJECT: Cooking appliances under Canopies and Tents

REFERENCE: UFC Section F-2002.2, N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a)3.v.,
N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(g), and IFC 2003, Section 2404

ISSUE DATE: June 21, 2006

The Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement has become increasingly aware of problems associated with cooking under canopies and tents. Pursuant to fire prevention code's Chapter 20, N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a)20, the current code language prohibits cooking under tents or air-supported structures.

"F-2002.2 Exposed flames: Gasoline, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved open flame shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or air-supported structure".

A conflict has developed with this section when the application of New Jersey State Department of Health regulations by health officials has required outdoor food preparation (cooking) and serving to be conducted underneath a structure to shield the food from airborne contaminants. For temporary activities this has involved the use of membrane structures.

This bulletin includes guidance to provide for the application of the competing regulations in a coordinated and effective manner.

A second issue has been the application of State Fire Safety Code Section N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(g) to cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors that occur under membrane structures. The Division of Fire Safety has determined that such actions are not authorized.

The intent of the State Fire Safety Code, (Retrofit Code), is to provide for an acceptable level of life safety in buildings or structures that were not built in compliance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code (UCC). Primarily, application of this subchapter is to occupancies constructed prior to the effective date of the UCC with some legislated exceptions such as dormitories for suppression purposes. The scope is intended to deal with occupancies that do not meet fire protection standards enacted on January 1, 1977 or later.

Since all membrane structures are regulated by the current standards of the NJ Uniform Construction Code and/or NJ Uniform Fire Code, the Retrofit Code provisions would not be applicable. Furthermore, if the guidance to restrict such cooking activities to canopies or UCC permitted tents as provided in this bulletin is followed by fire code officials, there will not be a dangerous accumulation of grease laden vapors.

Guidance Document

Cooking appliances under Canopies and Tents

Definitions:

CANOPY. A structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable materials supported by any manner, except by air or the contents it protects, and is open without sidewalls or drops on 75 percent or more of the perimeter.

TENT. A structure, enclosure or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects.

Purpose:

Prohibiting open flames and high-heat appliances fueled by flammable or combustible gases, liquids and solids inside or within 20 feet of a tent or membrane structure is just common sense. Fires cannot start if there is no source of ignition. This guidance document, however, gives the fire code official the ability to approve an open flame or exposed flame appliance considered to be a minimal fire hazard typical of limited cooking facilities using charcoal or LP-gas for fuel and located under a canopy that is open on at least three sides and not attached to another structure.

Cooking activities under canopies may be approved based upon the following:

1. The issuance of a Type 1 Permit pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:70-2.7(a)3.v.
2. The use of membrane structures for cooking activities is restricted to free standing canopies with no sides attached during cooking activities.
Exception: Tents installed pursuant to a permit issued under the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code wherein the cooking activity was included as part of application, review and approval process.
3. A diagram is submitted that includes a floor plan showing the location of the cooking appliances and any fuel sources or supplies.
4. The cooking canopy is located no less than five feet from any other canopy, tent or structure.
5. The canopy fabric is flame resistant and the applicant has provided the Fire Official with a certification attesting the flame resistance as required by Section 2001.8 of the UFC.
6. All cooking equipment to be placed under a canopy is listed for commercial use. (example: a residential barbecue is not listed for commercial use)
7. LP-Gas containers are located at the outer edge of the canopy, a minimum of five feet from the heat-producing appliance. The containers are protected to prevent tampering or damage by vehicles or other hazards. The containers are securely fastened and free of leaks. Safety relief valves are pointed away from the canopy. (Note: Because LP Gas is heavier than air, the fire official should look at the ground in the area surrounding the container to ensure that the ground does not slope down from the container such that gas would collect in a high occupancy (assembly) area in the event of a leak.)
8. Occupancy underneath the canopy is restricted to those persons necessary for food preparation only. Food may be served from the outer edge of the canopy. Suitable barriers should be provided to maintain a distance of not less than five feet between areas accessed by the general public and the cooking equipment.
9. Portable fire extinguisher(s) are provided for each cooking location. The size and type should be determined in accordance with the fire protection requirements of the fire code and its referenced standard, NFPA 10.
10. Storage of combustible items required for food preparation or serving is limited.
11. All other applicable provisions of the NJ Uniform Fire Code are adhered to.