

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, open tents and awnings are increasingly used to preserve public health for dining, medical clinics, and other gatherings. With limited availability of outdoor heating equipment, portable umbrella-style propane patio heaters are often the only viable heating option. However, the Oregon Fire Code normally prohibits use of portable propane heaters within tents.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal recently issued new guidance allowing local fire officials to consider alternate rules for heating in tents during the COVID-19 emergency. After determining safe parameters based on manufacturer specifications, national standards, and conducting on-site testing, and in accordance with **OFC Section 3107.4** and **104.9**, Clackamas Fire District #1 (CFD#1) is temporarily approving the following provisions. This approval will remain in effect for the duration of the **Governor's Executive Order 20-66** or until otherwise revoked by Clackamas Fire District #1.

Umbrella-style propane patio heaters may be used to heat spaces under a tent or canopy when *ALL* the following conditions are met:

- The umbrella-style heater shall have an enclosed combustion chamber, a top deflector that directs heat downward, and shall be approved by a nationally recognized laboratory such as UL, CSA, etc.
- The heater shall be located so that any portion of the deflector is at least 36" away in all directions from tent or awning fabric or any other combustible material.
- The tent or canopy must be open on at least 50% of the perimeter when occupied.
- A minimum of one carbon monoxide detector shall be installed within the covered area. It can be battery powered or plug-in. *Exception:* Carbon monoxide detection is not required if the tent or canopy is open on all four sides.
- The propane cylinder in use shall be located in the heater assembly and connected directly with the hose supplied by the manufacturer. Extension hoses, manifolds, and external cylinders shall not be utilized.
- Storage of extra propane cylinders shall be located outside the tent.



This allowance applies only within CFD#1 service area, that encompasses four cities including Happy Valley, Johnson City, Milwaukie, and Oregon City, as well as the unincorporated areas of Barton, Beavercreek, Boring, Carus, Carver, Central Point, Clackamas, Clarkes, Damascus, Eagle Creek, Holcomb, Oak Lodge, Redland, South End, Sunnyside and Westwood.

Reference:

OSFM Joint Policy Bulletin-Tent Use During Declared Emergencies
<https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Docs/JPB-0006.pdf>