



**Stockton Fire Department • Fire Prevention Division**  
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## **FALL AND WINTER COVID-19 OUTDOOR DINING GUIDANCE**

### **General Safety Guidelines:**

- a. There shall be a clearance of not less than 3 feet between the fabric sides of a tent and any combustible material.
- b. Cooking is prohibited in tents, canopies, or membrane structures.
- c. One or more means of egress from a tent must be provided and clearly marked.
- d. Extension cords serving a tent, canopy, or membrane structure must be protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) and must be protected from damage.
- e. Heating devices must always be kept a minimum of 3 feet away from combustible materials.
- f. Businesses shall have sufficient fire extinguishers to cover indoor and outdoor spaces.
- g. Generators shall not be installed or operated within 10 feet of any combustible material.
- h. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances are to be kept a minimum of 5' from combustible materials, buildings, and exits.
- i. Tent installations shall not obstruct fire apparatus access to existing buildings or fire protection equipment such as fire hydrants, fire department connections, and fire lanes.
- j. Portable Outdoor Gas-Fired Heaters or any other open flame device shall not be allowed inside any tent. (CFC 603.4.2.1.1)
- k. The use of electric space heaters or ducted tent heaters may be permissible by the inspecting official.
- l. Proof of compliance certificate for flame retardant treatment for the fabric material. (CFC 3104.3)
- m. Any condition that presents a fire, hazard would contribute to the rapid spread of fire, interfere with the rapid exit of persons from the tents, or interfere with or delay the extinguishment of a fire, shall be immediately corrected as ordered by the enforcing authority. (CCR, Title 19, Div. 1, §321)

## **Installation Guidelines:**

Ducted Tent Heaters. Electric, propane or natural gas direct or indirect ducted tent heaters are allowed where installed in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Heaters must have UL or other NRTL listing.



Portable electric space heaters are allowed inside of a tent. Portable heaters shall have UL or other NRTL listing, over-temperature protection, ground heaters must have a tip-over switch, suspended heaters must be securely installed, and all heaters shall have clearances as required by the manufacturer, but in no case less than 3 feet from any persons or combustible material including the tent or sidewall fabric. The power supply shall utilize a single listed outdoor extension cord rated for the amperage and provided with GFCI protection or be supplied with a temporary power supply.



## **Definition:**

**Tent:** A structure, enclosure, umbrella structure or shelter, with or without sidewalls or drops, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects.

**Membrane Structure:** An air-inflated, air-supported, cable, or frame-covered structure as defined by the California Building Code and not otherwise defined as a tent.

**Canopy:** A structure or architectural projection of rigid construction over which a covering is attached that provides weather protection, identity, or decoration, and may be structurally independent or supported by an attachment to a building on one end and by not less than one stanchion on the outer end.