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Fire Marshal

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH

Office of the Fire Marshal

Fire Safety Fact Sheet

Propane Pedestal Heaters

As COVID-19 has led to an increase in restaurants offering outdoor dining there has been a look into outdoor dining extending into colder months. We have assembled this list to aid in your restaurant's decision to use these heaters safely. Please use this fact sheet as a guide but please also refer to the manufacturer's instructions for safe maintenance and operation.

- Fuel burning appliances, such as these, are for outdoor use only, with attention to the clearances listed below. **They cannot be used under canopies or tents at any time.**
- The fuel burning appliance must be commercially rated.
- Locations during use:
 - Maintain clearance of at least five feet horizontally from structures and overhangs.
 - Maintain a minimum clearance of three feet vertically and two feet horizontally from combustibles or farther if manufacturer's specifications dictate a farther distance. Must be approved by Fire Marshal.
 - Maintain a clearance of twenty feet from all tents and canopies.
 - Do not block egress ways or sidewalks
- Locations for storage:
 - Ensure that storage of the heaters is secure when not in use
 - Indoor storage of propane cylinders shall be approved by the Fire Marshal.
 - Indoor storage of cylinders may not be in a basement.
 - Cylinder storage must be at least five feet from an exit door.



Prior to approval the following must be submitted to the Fire Marshal's office:

- Permit application completed
- A drawing of the proposed layout of heaters, tables and canopies
- The specifications of the heating unit(s)
- The proposed cylinder storage location

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Middlesex County Fire Marshal's Office for assistance.

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