



Tyler Fire Department

Mobile Food Vendor Fire Safety Guidelines



This guide should help ensure your mobile food unit is in compliance with the current safety regulations. It should serve as an initial planning tool, and does not remove the responsibility of the owner to comply with all laws applicable to the mobile food unit.

Inspections Required

1. Northeast Texas Public Health Department: 903-535-0090
2. City of Tyler Fire Marshal's Office: 903-535-0007

Location of Mobile Units

- All mobile units must remain at least 15 feet away from any fire hydrant.
- Mobile units shall not block access to a Fire Department Connection (FDC).
- Mobile units shall not obstruct any access to, or exit from, a structure.

Electricity Issues

- Mobile units shall not use electricity from a nearby structure.
- Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. Extension cords shall be used only with portable appliances. (IFC 605.5)
 - *As a way of limiting the use of extension cords, their use is restricted to portable appliances. The reference to "portable" primarily denotes smaller, often-relocated appliances, such as a fan or a power tool. Extension cords must not be used with major appliances, such as refrigerators, which are not portable. (IFC Commentary, 2006) Appliances shall be plugged directly into electrical outlets.*

Design Construction/Safety Review

- All mobile units shall be inspected for safety. The Fire Marshal's Office will conduct the initial inspection at a predetermined date, in coordination with the Northeast Texas Public Health District.

- Annual fire safety inspections will be conducted at the time of permit renewal, in coordination with the Northeast Texas Public Health District.
- Exiting of mobile units shall not be obstructed.

LPG/Propane Cylinders

- Propane cylinders shall not be located:
 - Directly on roofs or ahead of the front axle or beyond the rear bumper of the vehicle;
 - Below the lowest part of the vehicle frame;
 - Inside improperly vented or unvented trunks or beds of vehicles;
 - Inside passenger compartments of vehicles.
- Compartments used for the storage of propane shall be gastight with respect to the passenger compartment and properly vented.
- The relief valve discharge from the propane cylinder shall not be less than 3 feet measured horizontally along the surface of the vehicle to:
 - Openings in the vehicle;
 - Propane burning appliance intake/exhaust vents;
 - All internal combustion engine exhaust terminations.
- All LPG cylinders shall be protected from damage.

Propane Equipment

- All cooking appliances shall be listed and labeled for the intended use.
- All appliances must be properly modified for use with propane.
- Appliances modified for use with propane must be modified by a licensed master plumber.
- Piping systems, including fittings and valves shall comply with NFPA 58.
- Propane system is required to be installed by a licensed master plumber.
- A letter must be supplied with confirmation of a pressure test that was completed and passed. System should be compliant with NFPA 58.
- All piping shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 58 and shall be protected against physical damage.
- Piping shall be tested annually. Documentation of test must be provided at the time of inspection.
- Manual shutoff valves on gas lines are required at the point of use (the appliance) and at the supply. Shutoff valves must be accessible.

**All LPG requirements follow the requirements as provided for by the Texas Railroad Commission, NFPA 58, and the International Fire Code, 2006 edition.*

Cooking

- For mobile units that perform cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors, appliances are required to be covered by a Commercial Type 1 vent hood, with a fire suppression system.
- Type 1 vent hoods shall be protected by a UL listed fixed fire extinguishing system which has been inspected by a Texas licensed fire extinguisher company. The fire suppression system must be inspected (by a licensed company) every 6 months and after any activation of the system.
- Each mobile unit is required to have a minimum 2A10BC fire extinguisher mounted in a quickly accessible area.
- Each mobile unit is required to have a Class K fire extinguisher, in addition to the above-mentioned 2A10BC extinguisher, also mounted in a quickly accessible area.
- The fire extinguishers are required to be inspected annually by a licensed company.
- Vent hoods, ducts, and fans shall be cleaned at intervals necessary to prevent the accumulation of grease. Cleanings shall be recorded, and records shall state the extent, time and date of cleaning. Such records shall be maintained on the mobile unit.
- Initial acceptance testing of new fire suppression systems shall be witnessed by the Fire Marshal's Office, in coordination with the licensed installer.

Housekeeping

- Trash containers should be emptied regularly.
- Clean all cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease build-up.

Safety Tips

- Know where the fire extinguisher is located and how to use it.
- Don't leave food cooking unattended.
- Don't wear loose-fitting clothing when cooking.
- "No Smoking" signs shall be posted. Additionally, the signage should be visible near any propane containers.
- In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1.
- The installation of carbon monoxide detectors and LP gas detectors is strongly encouraged.

For more information, please contact the Tyler Fire Marshal's Office at 903-535-0007.

Reference to Propane Container Requirements: NFPA 58 2014, 2014 Edition

6.24.3.3 The LP-Gas supply system, including the containers, shall be installed either on the outside of the vehicle or in a recess or cabinet vapor tight to the inside of the vehicle but accessible from and vented to the outside, with the vents located near the top and bottom of the enclosure and 3 ft. (1 m) horizontally away from any opening into the vehicle below the level of the vents.

6.24.3.4 Containers shall be mounted securely on the vehicle or within the enclosing recess or cabinet.

- A. Containers shall be installed with road clearance in accordance with 11.8.3.
- B. Fuel containers shall be mounted to prevent jarring loose and slipping or rotating, and the fastenings shall be designed and constructed to withstand, without permanent visible deformation, static loading in any direction equal to four times the weight of the container filled with fuel.
- C. Where containers are mounted within a vehicle housing, the securing of the housing to the vehicle shall comply with this provision. Any removable portions of the housing or cabinet shall be secured while in transit.
- D. Field welding on containers shall be limited to attachments to non-pressure parts such as saddle plates, wear plates, or brackets applied by the container manufacturer.
- E. All container valves, appurtenances, and connections shall be protected to prevent damage from accidental contact with stationary objects; from loose objects, stones, mud, or ice thrown up from the ground or floor; and from damage due to overturn or similar vehicular accident.
- F. Permanently mounted ASME containers shall be located on the vehicle to provide the protection specified in 6.24.3.4 (E).
- G. Cylinders shall have permanent protection for cylinder valves and connections.

Installation of Propane Containers on the outside of the Vehicle must meet the following:

Maximum Capacity of Individual LP-gas containers per local AHJ—maximum of two 100 lbs. aggregate water capacity. One to be used as a backup.

Where cylinders are located on the outside of a vehicle, weather protection shall be provided.

11.8.1.1—Containers shall be located to minimize the possibility of damage to the container and its fittings.

11.8.1.3—Containers located less than 18 inches from the exhaust system, the transmission, or a heat-producing component of the internal combustion engine shall be shielded by a vehicle frame member or by a noncombustible baffle with an air space on both sides of the frame member or baffle.

11.8.2.1—Container valves, appurtenances, and connections shall be protected to prevent damage due to accidental contact with stationary objects, or from stones, mud, or ice, and from damage due to an overturn or similar vehicular accident.

11.8.2.2—Protection of containers, valves, appurtenances, and connections shall be accomplished by one of the following.

1. By locating the container so that parts of the vehicle furnish the necessary protection
2. By the use of a fitting guard furnished by the manufacturer of the container
3. By other means to provide equivalent protection.

11.8.3.1—Containers shall not be mounted directly on roofs or ahead of the front axle or beyond the rear bumper of the vehicles.

11.8.3.2—No part of a container or its appurtenances shall protrude beyond the sides or top of the vehicle.

11.8.3.5—Containers installed between axles shall comply with 11.8.3.6 or shall not be lower than the lowest point forward of the container on the following points.

1. Lowest structural component of the body.
2. Lowest structural component of the frame or sub-frame
3. Lowest point on the engine
4. Lowest point of the transmission (including the clutch housing or torque converter housing as applicable)

(Paraphrased) **11.8.3.6**--Also if installed under the rear bumper the containers shall not be lower than lines extending rearward from where the wheels contact the ground to the lowest most rearward portion of the structure or bumper.

Propane installed in an enclosed cabinet recessed into the vehicle.

11.9.1.2—The container and its appurtenances shall be installed in an enclosure that is securely mounted to the vehicle.

- a. The enclosure shall be gastight with respect to driver or passenger compartments and to any space containing radio transmitter or other spark producing equipment

The enclosure shall be vented to the outside of the vehicle.