



Fire Marshal's Office

Coastside Fire Protection District

1191 Main St., Half Moon Bay, California 94019 (650) 726-5213

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Revised: May 7, 2019

Number: *PI-012*

Title: *Portable Gas Heaters*

Approved: *Gary Silva*

SCOPE:

The intent of this standard is to list sections of the 2013 California Fire Code pertaining to Portable Outdoor Gas-Fired Heating Appliances and put them into accessible language. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (650) 726-5213

Requirements:

- 1. Outdoor gas-fired heaters cannot be stored or used on balconies, inside tents or canopies or inside buildings.**

Units may be stored inside buildings as long as they are not connected to a gas container. The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:

Inside of any occupancy when connected to the fuel gas container.

Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.

On exterior balconies. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.1)

- 2. Units must be located at least 5 feet from buildings.**
Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located at least 5 feet from buildings. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.2)
- 3. Units shall not be located beneath or closer than 5 feet of combustible decorations, overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible materials.**
Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.3)
- 4. Units shall not be located within 5 feet of an exit or exit path.**
Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.4)
- 5. All units must be listed and approved with space for a fuel container.**

Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.1)

6. Units must be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with manufacturer instructions. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.2)

7. Units must have a tip over safety switch that shuts off the flow of gas if the unit is tipped more than 15 degrees from the standing position.

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees from the vertical. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.3)

8. The heating element of the units must have a guard to prevent contact with the heat source.

The heating element or combustion chamber of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons or material. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.4)

9. Gas containers shall be approved.

Only approved DOTn or ASME gas containers shall be used. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.1)

10. Gas containers in heating devices shall not be changed in a location where the public is present.

Replacement of fuel gas containers in portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be conducted while the public is present. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.2)

11. Gas containers cannot exceed 20 pounds in capacity.

The maximum individual capacity of gas containers used in connection with portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not exceed 20 pounds. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.3)

12. Gas containers cannot be stored inside buildings.

Gas containers shall not be stored inside of buildings. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.4)

13. LP-gas containers should be securely stored to protect against tampering.

Additional vehicle impact protection may be required by the Fire District. LP-gas containers shall be stored within a suitable enclosure or otherwise protected against tampering. Vehicular protection shall be provided as required by the fire code official. (California Fire Code 6109.13)