

# REDMOND FIRE & RESCUE



## Guidelines for the use of Heaters in Tents, Membrane Structures and Patios

**This guide is intended to provide assistance in the application of the fire code  
in all areas served by Redmond Fire & Rescue.**

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# AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

Redmond Fire & Rescue has elected to administer and enforce the Oregon Fire Code under the authority granted to us by ORS 476.030. The Oregon Fire Code is the International Fire Code, 2024 Edition, as published and copyrighted by the International Code Council, which has been amended and adopted by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office. In order to further the Oregon State Fire Marshal's goal of promoting fire code consistency throughout the state.

Redmond Fire & Rescue has prepared this guide to provide good faith guidance to contractors, business owners, and the public on local interpretations and practices that are considered to be in compliance with the Oregon Fire Code. The intent is to clarify aspects of the code that are vague or non-specific by addressing selected issues under normal conditions. This guide does not create or replace code provisions. The reader is cautioned that the guidance detailed in this guide may or may not apply to their specific situation, and that Redmond Fire & Rescue retains final authority to determine compliance.

The information in this document is intended to assist applicants in attaining compliance and to ensure that privately owned roadways identified for emergency response will be available for use at all times.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Any person seeking an adjustment or variance to the Fire Code, or who believes they have been adversely affected by an action of the District or its officers in interpreting or enforcing the Fire Code, may file an appeal.

## HELPFUL LINKS

### **Oregon Fire Code**

[2025 Oregon Fire Code | ICC Digital Codes](#)

[\(iccsafe.org\)](http://iccsafe.org)

### **Oregon Building Code (Oregon Structural Specialty Code):**

[2025 Oregon Structural Specialty Code | ICC Digital Codes \(iccsafe.org\)](#)

The Oregon Fire Code has numerous requirements for heating and heat producing appliances inside of tents, canopies or other temporary membrane structures. Heating devices inside these structures can introduce significant fire, burn injury and CO poisoning hazards. Among those requirements are:

**3108.4 Open or Exposed Flame.** Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or membrane structure while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official.

**3108.12.1 Installation.** Heating or cooking equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be installed as specified in the International Fuel Gas Code and the International Mechanical Code, and shall be approved by the fire code official.

**4101.6.2 Location of Containers.** LP-gas containers and tanks shall be located outside in accordance with Table 6104.3. Pressure relief devices shall be pointed away from the tent or membrane structure.

**4103.1.2.1.1 Prohibited Locations.** The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:

2. Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.

**4103.1.2.1.3 Clearance to 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.

**4103.1.2.1.4 Proximity to Exits.** Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges.

**4101.5 Electrical Heating and Cooking Equipment.** Electrical cooking and heating equipment shall comply with NFPA 70.

**4102.1.4 Prohibited Areas.** Portable, electric space heaters shall not be operated within 3 feet of any combustible materials. Portable, electric space heaters shall be operated only in locations for which they are listed.

## Acceptable Installations

Based on the above code requirements, there are four categories of acceptable heating for a tent, canopy or temporary membrane structure.

**Ducted Tent Heaters.** Electric, propane or natural gas direct or indirect ducted tent heaters specifically designed for heating tents and other enclosed spaces are allowed where installed in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Heaters must have UL or other NRTL listing.



**Ducted Tent Heater Examples**

**Portable Electric Space Heaters.** Portable electric space heaters are allowed inside tents. Portable heaters shall have UL or other NRTL listing, over-temperature protection, and 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. Ground heaters must have a tip-over switch, suspended heaters must be securely installed. The power supply shall utilize a single listed outdoor extension cord rated for the amperage and include GFCI protection or be provided with temporary power supply approved by the Building Official.



**Portable or Suspended Electric Heater Examples**

**Catalytic Propane Heaters.** Propane or natural gas fueled catalytic heaters which heat by chemical reaction and have no combustion are allowed inside tents. Catalytic heaters must have UL or other NRTL listing, tip-over switch and maintain 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 propane source cylinder is not allowed within the tent.



**Catalytic Heater Examples**

**Heating and HVAC Systems installed under an approved Building Permit.** HVAC systems that are reviewed, inspected and approved by the applicable Building Department under a building, mechanical or electrical permit are allowed.

## **Prohibited Heaters**

Only the above listed approved heater types are allowed. For information purposes, the following are examples of common heating devices that are not allowed within a tent, canopy or temporary membrane structure:



**Salamander Type Heaters using propane, natural gas, kerosene or other flammable fuels**



**Patio Type Propane Heaters**



**Infrared Propane Heaters**