

## Tent Guidance

Tents are being utilized for overflow seating for foodservice establishments during COVID. To qualify as outdoor seating and more fully utilize the space, at least two (2) sides of tent must remain open and six (6) feet of space must be maintained between customers at different tables. If 2 sides of the tent are not open, the tent is considered interior space and may be used at 50% of its potential seating capacity consistent with [Healthy at Work Bar and Restaurant guidance](#).

Below is more information related to tent use about Smoking or Exposed Flames, Heater or Cooking Equipment and Storage of Propane Tanks from the Kentucky Department of Housing, Building and Construction. This information may be found in the 2018 Kentucky Building Code.

### Smoking or Exposed Flames:

**432.14.6 Smoking.** Smoking shall not be permitted *in tents, canopies or membrane structures*. Approved “No Smoking” signs shall be conspicuously posted.

**432.14.7 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 (6096 mm) of the *tent, canopy or membrane structures* while open to the public unless approved by the authority having *jurisdiction*.

### Heating or Cooking Equipment & Storage of LP-gas:

**432.14.14 Heating and cooking equipment.** Heating and cooking equipment shall be in accordance with Sections 432.14.14.1 through 432.14.14.7

**432.14.14.1 Installation.** Heating or cooking equipment, tanks, piping, hoses, fittings, valves, tubing and other related components shall be installed as specified in the *International Mechanical Code* and the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54), and shall be approved by the authority having *jurisdiction*.

**432.14.14.2 Venting.** Gas, liquid and solid fuel-burning equipment designed to be vented shall be vented to the outside air as specified in the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54) and the *International Mechanical Code*. Such vents shall be equipped with *approved* spark arresters when required. Where vents or flues are used, all portions of the *tent, canopy or membrane structure* shall be not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from the flue or vent.

**432.14.14.3 Location.** Cooking and heating equipment shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of exits or combustible materials.

**432.14.14.4 Operations.** Operations such as warming of foods, cooking demonstrations and similar operations that use solid flammables, butane or other similar devices which do not pose an ignition hazard, shall be approved by the authority having *jurisdiction* provided that all other applicable requirements of this section are met.

**432.14.14.5 Cooking tents.** *Tents* where cooking is performed shall be separated from other *tents, canopies or membrane structures* by a minimum of 20 feet (6096 mm).

**432.14.14.6 Outdoor cooking.** Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet (6096 mm) of a *tent, canopy or membrane structure*.

**432.14.14.7 Electrical heating and cooking equipment.** Electrical cooking and heating equipment shall comply with the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70).

**432.14.15.2 Location of containers.** LP-gas containers shall be located outside. Safety release valves shall be pointed away from the *tent, canopy or membrane structure*.

If you have specific questions that that pertain to the Kentucky Building Code you may reach out to Department of Housing, Building and Construction-Division of Building Code Enforcement at (502) 573-0373.