



Miami Beach Fire Department
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
STANDARDS



TOPIC: Outdoor Heaters
Page 1 of 2

STANDARD NO: EXINSP-S11
Revision 0

This Fire Prevention Standard will clarify the Public Works and Fire Department requirements for the use, and storage of Outdoor LP Gas Heaters.

The Public Works Department will allow the use and storage of outdoor heaters in the Right-of-Way (ROW) under the following conditions:

- Heaters are used in a properly licensed sidewalk café
- Heaters are used only during the winter months November 1st to April 1st
- LP gas tanks are stored inside the heaters
- No extra LP gas tanks outside of heaters can be stored in the ROW
- Heaters and LP gas tanks are used and stored in accordance with the fire code requirements listed below.

The Fire Marshal's Office has the following requirements based on Florida Fire Prevention Code-2007, NFPA 1, Chapter 69.

Outdoor Heaters – Use

- Heaters must be listed by a nationally recognized laboratory (US or Canada).
 - Heaters must only be used outdoors – area open on at least two sides.
 - Heaters must be inspected, tested and certified by a qualified service company annually.
 - Fire extinguishers (2A:10B:C) must be provided and readily available in the area where heaters are used. There must be one fire extinguisher for every 10 heaters in the area.
 - Only properly trained employees should be operating the heater (must read and understand owner's manual).
 - All combustibles should be all least 36 inches from every part of the heater.
 - When heater is on, the emitter screen would be bright red, but flames shall not be visible outside the screen.
 - Do not store or use gasoline or other flammable liquids within 25 ft of the heater appliance
 - Do not use the heaters if winds exceed 10 mph
 - Do not leave a lit heater unattended; alert both children and adults to the hazards of high temperature; employees should alert adults to supervise children in the vicinity of the heater
 - Place heater on a hard and level surface
 - Heaters shall be self-supporting and shall not be installed utilizing valves, piping, or regulators as structural supports.
 - Heaters shall be equipped with an approved automatic device to shut off the flow of gas to the main burner and the pilot, if any, in the event of flame extinguishment or combustion failure.
 - Follow all manufacturer's safety instructions including checking for leaks before operating.
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Page 2 of 2

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Outdoor Heaters – Storage

When not in use in the ROW,

- Heaters must be stored away from pedestrian traffic in the ROW and not obstructing any means of egress from any building.
- The hose assembly **MUST** be disconnected and removed – this prevents release of gas when the valve is turned in the attempt to release gas.
- Secure all heaters with a heavy-duty cable and locking device securing the heaters together or to a permanent structure.

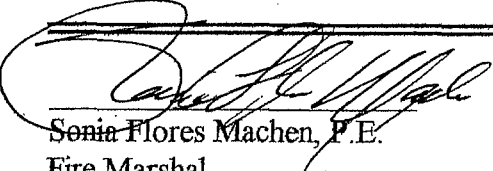
When not in use in private property,

- Heaters should be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and not to obstruct or impede any means of egress.

LP Gas Tanks – Use/Storage

- Tanks must be stored inside the heater appliance in the ROW- no empty or full spare tanks outside heaters can be stored in the ROW
- Tanks must be stored outdoors; never inside a building
- Tanks must be stored at least 5 ft. from the property line, from any openings in the building, from any ignition sources, or from air intake vents.
- Tank must be stored at least 5 ft. from any doorway where occupants have two means of egress, or 10 ft from any doorway if there is only one means of egress.
- Tanks must be stored in a lockable, ventilated metal locker that prevents tampering with valves and pilferage of cylinders.
- Tanks must be protected against vehicle impact by bollards, if necessary
- Tanks must be exchanged by a qualified company properly licensed to fill and deliver filled tanks. A qualified company will provide tanks marked by DOT, CAN/CSA or ASME containing the safety features such as overfill prevention devices(OPD).
- Tanks that show excessive denting, bulging, corrosion shall be replaced
- Valve shall have a properly designed collar for protection of the tank valve fitting

Any violation of the above requirements will result in fines and/or revocation of the use of outdoor heaters in the sidewalk café.


Sonia Flores Machen, P.E.
Fire Marshal

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