

# Heater Guidelines

This information is provided as a guide only – please check with the WFD about your specific use

The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC) differs for the different types of heaters used; gas fueled versus electric.

## PORTABLE ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

1. **605.10 Portable, electric space heaters.** Where not prohibited by other sections of this code, portable, electric space heaters shall be permitted to be used in all occupancies other than Group I-2 and in accordance with Sections 605.10.1 through 605.10.4.
  - a. **Exception:** The use of portable, electric space heaters in which the heating element cannot exceed a temperature of 212°F (100°C) shall be permitted in nonsleeping staff and employee areas in Group I-2 occupancies.
2. **605.10.1 Listed and labeled.** Only portable electric space heaters listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1278 shall be used.
3. **605.10.3 Extension cords.** Portable, electric space heaters shall not be plugged into extension cords.
4. **605.10.2 Power supply.** Portable, electric space heaters shall be plugged directly into an *approved* receptacle.
5. **605.10.4 Prohibited areas.** Portable, electric space heaters shall not be operated within 3 feet (914 mm) of any combustible materials. Portable, electric space heaters shall be operated only in locations for which they are *listed*.
6. **3104.7 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 (6069mm) of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless *approved by the fire code official*.
7. **3104.12 Portable fire extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as required by Section 906.

## GAS FUELED PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

The list of code requirements for gas fueled portable space heaters are determined by the location where found in use as well as the type of fuel being used. Multiple chapters of the VSFPC address code requirements for gas fueled heating appliance usage. These chapters regulate where they can be used, how they can be used and where fuel storage can be located based on type of heater, fuel type and location of use. In General, the following requirements are set forth for LP-Gas Fueled heating appliances.

1. **6103.2.1.7 Use with self-contained torch assemblies.** Where *approved, listed* LP-gas containers are allowed to be used to supply *approved* self-contained torch assemblies or similar appliances. Such containers shall not exceed a water capacity of 2½ pounds (1 kg).
2. **6107.2 Smoking and other sources of ignition.** “No Smoking” signs complying with section 310 shall be posted where required by the *fire code official*. Smoking within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a point of transfer, while filling operations are in progress at LP-gas containers or vehicles, shall be prohibited.
3. **6107.3 Clearance to Combustibles.** Weeds, grass, brush, trash and other combustible materials shall be kept not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from LP-gas tanks or containers.
4. **6107.4 Protecting containers from vehicles.** Where exposed to vehicular damage due to proximity to alleys, driveways or parking areas, LP-gas containers, regulators and piping shall be protected in accordance with NFPA 58.
5. **3104.7 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 (6069mm) of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless *approved by the fire code official*.
6. **3104.12 Portable fire extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided as required by Section 906.

In addition, a major concern that needs to be taken into consideration with gas fueled appliances is correct and adequate ventilation. The appliances would be required to be properly vented; this may involve reference the building code depending on use.

Any business open to the public is subject to a fire prevention inspection, but the WFD will coordinate with the business in advance to help determine what they can and cannot do at their location per the fire prevention code.

**CONTACT THE WFD BEFORE PURCHASE AND USE OF A HEATER.**

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