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ROUND ROCK FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES

***FOOD PREPARATION (COOKING) *FIXED SITE (CARNIVAL / EVENT) *FRYING FOODS**

This document is designed to provide guidelines for Mobile Food Establishment operation with the Round Rock Fire Marshal's Office. Only Mobile Food Establishments equipped with appliances that produce open flame cooking, smoke, or grease-laden vapors, contain LP, CNG, or any other fuel gas systems require an inspection with the Round Rock Fire Department.

Location of Mobile Units:

- Mobile Units shall not be closer than 20 feet away from any structure.
Exception: The unit may be permitted to be closer than 20 feet if an on-site inspection of the location is completed by the Round Rock Fire Marshal's office. In addition, a letter from the property owner stating his or her permission to allow the mobile unit to be closer than 20 feet but not closer than 5 feet to the structure must be provided to a fire inspector at the time of the inspection. The area around the unit and structure must remain open and NOT block or impede any exits access.
- All Mobile Units must remain at least 15 feet away from any fire hydrant, shall not block access to a Fire Department Connection (FDC), and shall not obstruct any access or exit from a structure.

Electricity Issues:

- **Extension cords are only for temporary use, not part of the unit's wiring.**
- No multiplug adaptors may be used unless surge protected.
- Mobile Units shall not permanently connect to electricity from a nearby structure. If a proper gauge extension cord and outlet from the structure are used, temporary use shall be permitted.
- All wiring must be contained in approved junction boxes (all splices, outlets, and light fixtures).

Design Construction/Plan Review:

- All Mobile Units shall be inspected for safety.
- Exiting of mobile units shall not be obstructed.
- Plans may be required for Mobile Units.

Propane Cylinders:

- A maximum of 2 – 100 lb. propane cylinders is allowed. One is allowed for use and one as a spare. Exception: The mobile unit may connect to the onsite natural gas with a quick connect/breakaway connection. However, **proper paperwork from a licensed plumber verifying that all the connections have been tested and meet the applicable natural gas regulations.**
- Propane cylinders need to be re-qualified every 12 years. A current date of manufacture, if new or a requalification stamp is required on all cylinders.

Propane Cylinder Location:

- Propane cylinders shall not be located:
 - On rear bumpers or roofs
 - Underneath the vehicle frame
 - Inside improperly vented or unvented trunks or beds of vehicles
 - Inside passenger compartments of vehicles
 - On soil
- Compartments used for storage of propane shall be properly vented.
- The relief valve discharge from the propane cylinder shall not be less than 3 ft. measured horizontally along the surface of the vehicle to:
 - Openings in the vehicle
 - Propane burning appliance intake exhaust vents.
 - All internal combustion engine exhaust terminations
 - Any structure or any other combustible items.

Propane Cylinder Equipment:

- All cooking appliances shall be listed for use with propane.
- All appliances must be modified for use with propane.
- Appliances required to be vented (by the manufacturer's recommendations, usually greater than 40,000 BTU's) must be converted for use with propane by a master plumber licensed by the Texas Railroad Commission. Documentation of conversion by a plumber must be provided at the inspection.
- Piping systems, including fittings and valves, shall comply with NFPA 58.
- The use of non-metallic hose is prohibited. Flexible metallic connectors are limited to 5 feet in length.
- Piping shall be tested annually by a **licensed LPG Technician** at not less than 3 psig for 10 minutes before appliances are connected and at normal operating system pressure after connection. **ANNUAL PRESSURE TEST DOCUMENTATION OF TEST MUST BE PROVIDED AT INSPECTION.**
- Manual shutoffs are required at the point of use and at the supply.

Propane at long-term Site:

- A Hazardous Material Permit will be required from the Round Rock Fire Department for all long-term mobile food vending units using propane at one location for more than 30 days.
- Cylinder must be 10 feet from combustibles.
- Cylinder cannot be within 6 feet of electric power lines over 600 v.
- Cylinders awaiting use shall be secured from tampering.
- The relief valve discharge of the cylinder must be 5 ft. from exterior sources of ignition, openings into direct vent appliances, and mechanical ventilation air intakes.

Fire Extinguishers:

- Each Mobile Unit will be required to have a proper fire extinguisher inside their vehicle **(1 – 3A:40 BC fire extinguisher)**. In addition, 1 type, 1.5-gallon **Class K Fire Extinguisher**, for units with frying capabilities or cooking that emits grease latent vapors.
- Each fire extinguisher must be **mounted** in a conspicuous location where it can be accessed quickly.
- Each fire extinguisher will need to be serviced annually and maintain a current **STATE FIRE INSPECTION TAG**, with date and company name, confirming its status.

City of Round Rock Ordinance (Round Rock Code of Ordinances):

- All Mobile Units must conform to the current **City Ordinance. CH.2 Sec. 2-93 C 4.A.**
- All Mobile Units/trailers must have a current state vehicle registration to pass the fire inspection.

For operating in the City of Round Rock you must have a Fire Inspection to get your Williamson County Food Permit and Maintain Both to Operate annually. You must have a Fire Inspection for Cooking, Frying, and/or Fix Site / Event Setup.

For more information or to schedule an inspection, contact The Fire Marshal's office at **512-218-6628**.