

Chesapeake Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
Office of the Fire Marshal
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General Fire Code Guidelines for Cooking Vendors with Tents

The Chesapeake Fire Department wants you to have a safe and enjoyable experience. Following are the most frequent hazards we find involving vendors cooking under tents. Please refer to the Fire Code Event Handout for a more detailed list of requirements, as this list is not all inclusive.

- Tents must have a current Flame Retardant Certificate. Please note: 10'x10' easy pop up tents normally do not have flame retardant certification.
- All propane bottles (less than 500 lbs.) must be at least 10 feet from tents.
- Generators must be at least 20 feet from the tents.
- No flammable liquids are permitted to be stored under tents.
- No open flames are permitted under tents.
- No "Turkey Fryer" type cooking devices are permitted under tents.
- "No Smoking" signs must be posted under the tents.
- Extension cords cannot be attached to the tent structure (any portion of the tent).
- A minimum of one fire extinguisher must be under all tents (minimum rating of a 2A10BC Fire extinguisher).
- **Please note:** If deep fat fryers are present, a Class "K" fire extinguisher must also be present.
- Tents used for cooking must be separate from tents used for eating (assembly).
- **Please note:** If vendors are using trailers or other structures, they must meet additional requirements and should contact the Fire Marshal's Office for details and inspection before use.

We are here to assist you and to ensure your site is safe for you and your customers. For additional information please contact Deputy Fire Marshal John Harrell of the Chesapeake Fire Marshal's Office at (757) 382-8312 or at jharrell@cityofchesapeake.net.