FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

Title: Special Outdoor Events		
Number: FPG-09	**Effective Date**: 01/01/2008	**Revised Date**: 03/01/2009
Code References: California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC)		
Note: *This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.*		

Scope

This Fire Prevention Guideline has been developed to provide clarification and support for organizations and members of the public who will be hosting or participating in an outdoor event.

Codes and Guidelines

This guideline shall apply to all street fairs, farmers markets, concerts or similar outdoor events. Outdoor events shall be in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

Permits Required

A variety of permits may be required dependant upon the type of activities planned. Typical outdoor activities which may require a permit may include the use of tents or canopies, compressed gases, flame effects, etc.

Specific Requirements

1. **Fire Lanes**
   A minimum 22-foot wide unobstructed clearance shall be maintained on all streets to allow for emergency vehicle access.

2. **Fire Hydrants/Fire Protection Equipment**
   Fire hydrants, fire department inlet connections or fire protection system control valves.

3. **Cooking Booths**
   Only three cooking booths are permitted per block and they shall be located at least 50 feet apart

   a. PROPANE TANKS. Only approved containers with valves, fittings and other equipment, which comply with the Fire Code may be used for cooking or other appliances. **Cylinders are not to be changed during the event.**

      i. Tanks shall not exceed 5 gallons in size without special approval from the Fire Department.

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ii. Cooking booths shall be limited to a maximum of four individual cooking appliances. The fuel supply for each appliance shall be 5 gallons or less.

iii. No spare tanks are allowed in the area and tanks are not allowed to be exchanged during the event.

b. No motorized vehicles shall be parked within 20 feet of any cooking booth, barbecue or other cooking area.

c. Each vendor who is cooking must provide a minimum of one 2A10BC rated fire extinguisher with a current State Fire Marshal service tag attached. The fire extinguisher must be located in an easily accessible location.

d. No combustible storage is allowed near any cooking equipment, barbecue or other sources of ignition.

4. Electrical Requirements

a. Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap, or multi-plug adaptor and, except for approved multi-plug extension cords, shall serve only one appliance.

b. The ampacity of the extension cords shall not be less than the rated capacity if the portable appliance served by the cord.

c. Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage.

d. Extension cords shall be grounded when serving portable grounded equipment.

5. Compressed Gas Cylinders

All compressed gas cylinders (propane, C02, helium, etc.) must be properly secured to prevent them from falling.

6. Booth Construction

a. Fabric booths over 200 square feet must be constructed of an approved flame-retardant material or be properly treated with a flame-retardant chemical and are required to display a State Fire Marshal flame-retardant tag.

b. Exit doors from booths must be unobstructed at all times.

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c. All solid doors must swing out and be operable from the inside without any special knowledge or effort. Doors to fabric booths must be open at all times or open with little or no knowledge or special effort.