

General Fire Safety Checklist for Mobile Food Service Vehicles

The State of Ohio adopted the 2017 Ohio Fire Code (OFC) December 15, 2017. Included in this fire code is Section 320 Mobile Food Units. Listed below are items that will be checked during inspections.

A Site plan shall be submitted for approval to the fire code official. Site plan to include arrangement of all vendors, site access, distances between vendors and fire lanes that are maintained. Permanent structures and hydrant locations shall also be noted on site plan.

After site plan approval a permit shall be obtained.

Access and Fire Lanes

OFC 403.12.4 Apparatus access at carnivals, fairs, and amusement buildings. At all events subject to or permitted in accordance with paragraph (E)(6)(b)(105.6.2) or (E)(6)(d)(105.6.4) of rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code, no parking, vehicle, vendor, concession apparatus, booth, or any other obstruction shall be arranged or maintain in any manner that blocks the unobstructed access of emergency response vehicles to the permitted premises or in any manner that blocks the emergency response vehicles from accessing all portions of the permitted premises. The determination of access necessary shall be based upon the size and turning radius of the equipment and vehicles of the permitting entity or authority.

Fire apparatus access roads shall have a clear unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and a vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches. **OFC 503.2.1**

Mobile food units shall not block fire lanes, fire hydrants or other fire protection devices and equipment. **OFC 320.2.1**

While parked and in operation mobile food units using or containing a fuel source or generator other than vehicle fuel tank shall be separated from other mobile food units by a clear space distance of 3 feet. **OFC 320.7. (rev. 1/2019)**

While parked and in operation mobile food units using or containing a fuel source or generator other than vehicle fuel tank shall be separated from the entrances and other exits of building or structures and combustible materials by a clear space distance of 10 feet. **OFC 320.7.**

Safety

All mobile food units shall be equipped with at least one listed carbon monoxide detection device. **OFC 320.2.3.**

A minimum of one 5-pound ABC portable fire extinguisher shall be located within the unit and shall be readily accessible by the operator. **OFC 320.3.**

All mobile food units that contain cooking equipment involving solid fuels or vegetable or animal oils and fats shall also be protected by at least one Class K rated portable fire extinguisher. **OFC 320.3.1.**

All mobile food units that operate commercial cooking equipment shall have two accessible means of egress remotely located from each other. **OFC 320.4**

Means of egress shall not be smaller than 5.7 square feet. **OFC 320.4.1.**

Smoking shall be prohibited inside and within ten feet of any mobile food unit. **OFC 320.5**

“No Smoking” signs shall be conspicuously posted inside each mobile food unit and in any location where compressed gas is stored or kept clearly visible to the public. “No Smoking” signs shall have a dark

background with contrasting color that is at least four inches tall with a brush stroke of one inch. **OFC 320.5.1, 320.5.2**

LP Cylinders

All Cylinders, connections, fixed and flexible piping in a mobile food service unit shall comply with all requirements of **OFC 320.6 and chapters 53, 57, 58 and 61 of the Administrative Code.**

OFC 320.6.2 Location and installation. Supply systems for mobile food units shall comply with the following:
(i) LP-Gas supply systems used for a mobile food unit, including the containers, shall be installed either on the outside of the vehicle or in a recess or cabinet that is vapor tight to the inside of the vehicle but accessible from and vented to the outside, with the vents located near the top and bottom of the enclosure and 1 m (3 ft) horizontally away from any opening into the vehicle.

(ii) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (T)(6)(b)(iii)(320.6.2) of this rule, LP-Gas containers shall be mounted securely on the vehicle or within the enclosing recess or cabinet and secured with noncombustible material or

devices, shall be kept in a secure manner at all times, and shall comply with the following:

(a) Cylinders shall be located to minimize exposure to excessive temperature rises, physical damage, or tampering.

(b) When secured to the rear of the vehicle, propane tanks shall be mounted with minimum 30" clearance from the bottom of the tank to the ground.

(c) LP-Gas containers shall not be installed on the roof of the vehicle.

(d) Where LP-Gas containers are mounted within the vehicle housing, the housing shall be secure to the vehicle and any removable portions of the housing shall be secured to the housing while in transit.

(e) All LP-Gas container valves, appurtenances, and connections shall be protected to prevent damage from accidental contact with stationary objects, loose objects, stones, mud, or ice thrown, up from the ground or floor, and damage due to overturn or similar vehicular accident.

(f) LP-Gas cylinders shall have permanent protection for cylinder valves and connections.

(g) Where LP-Gas cylinders are located on the outside of a vehicle, weather protection shall be provided.

(h) All materials or devices used to secure LP-Gas containers shall be made of non-combustible material.

(iii) LP-Gas containers may be removed from the mobile food unit during operation activities. When so removed, propane tanks shall be secured to a stationary object or otherwise securely stabilized to prevent movement, overturn and damage at all times while operation activities are occurring.

Piping systems, including hose, shall be pressure tested and proven free of leaks in accordance with NFPA 58 as listed in rule 80 of the Administrative Code. **OFC 320.6.3 (x).**

Mobile food units using LP gas shall be provided with a readily distinguishable and accessible marked exterior emergency shut off control with a quarter-turn manual gas ball valve. **OFC 320.6.4**

"Emergency Gas Shut-Off Valve" sign shall be permanently mounted at shut off control, shall be clearly visible and unobscured at all times. It shall be weather resistant of contrasting colors and be readable from a minimum distance of 25 feet. **OFC 320.6.4.1, 320.6.4.1.1.**

Generators

Generators shall not be fueled while mobile food unit is in operation. **OFC 320.8.1.**

Generators shall not be fueled while generator is in use and shall not be fueled until generator has been turned off and completely cooled below autoignition temperature of fuel being used. **OFC 320.8.2.**

No generator shall be operated, used or fueled within the occupant space of a mobile food unit. **OFC 320.8.3.**

