



## CODE SUMMARY

### PORTABLE OUTDOOR GAS-FIRED HEATING APPLIANCES

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific topic and does not contain any interpretations or District standards. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to Portable Outdoor Gas-Fired Heating Appliances and puts them into simple, easy to understand language. The bold headings are intended to be straightforward and uncomplicated. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Community Risk Reduction Division.

**1. Outdoor gas-fired heaters cannot be stored or used on balconies, inside tents or canopies or inside buildings. Units may be stored inside buildings if they are not connected to a gas container.**

The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:

- a. Inside of any occupancy where connected to the fuel gas container.
- b. Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.
- c. On exterior balconies. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.1.1)

**2. Units must be located at least 5 feet from buildings vertically and horizontally.**

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located not less than 5 feet from buildings. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.1.2)

**3. Units shall not be located beneath or closer than 5 feet of combustible decorations, overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible materials.**

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.1.3)

**4. Units shall not be located within 5 feet of an exit or exit path.**

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.1.4)

**5. All units must be listed and approved with space for a fuel container.**

Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be listed and labeled in accordance with ANSI Z83.26/CSA 2.37. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.2.1)

**6. Units must be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.**

Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.2.2)

- 7. Units must have a tip over safety switch that shuts off the flow of gas if the unit is tipped more than 15 degrees from the standing position.**  
Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees from the vertical. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.2.3)
- 8. The heating element of the units must have a guard to prevent contact with the heat source.**  
The heating element or combustion chamber of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons or material. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.2.4)
- 9. Gas containers shall be approved.**  
Only approved DOTn or ASME gas containers shall be used. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.3.1)
- 10. Gas containers in heating devices shall not be changed in a location where the public is present.**  
Replacement of fuel gas containers in portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be conducted while the public is present. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.3.2)
- 11. Gas containers cannot exceed 20 pounds in capacity.**  
The maximum individual capacity of gas containers used in connection with portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not exceed 20 pounds. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.3.3)
- 12. Gas containers cannot be stored inside buildings.**  
Gas containers shall not be stored inside of buildings. (California Fire Code 4103.1.2.3.4)
- 13. LP-gas containers should be securely stored to protect against tampering. Additional vehicle impact protection may be required by NFPA 58.**  
LP-gas containers shall be stored within a suitable enclosure or otherwise protected against tampering. When required vehicle impact protection shall be provided in accordance with 6107.4. (California Fire Code 6109.13)