



Williamson County

Emergency Services District No. 4

Liberty Hill Fire Department

www.libertyhillfire.org

Fire Inspection Requirements for Mobile Food Vending

Mobile Food Vending Unit Checklist

While this list cannot possibly cover every scenario or type of mobile vending unit, The Liberty Hill Fire Department provides the following guidelines as a tool to ensure all mobile vending units meet the same minimum requirements. While this list may not be all inclusive of every fire safety requirement, it should be used as a guide to ensure your vehicle meets the minimum requirements. Prior to having your unit inspected, please ensure that your mobile food vending unit has met these conditions.

Location of Mobile Units:

- Units shall not be closer than 20 feet to any structure
- All Mobile Units must remain at least 3 feet away from any fire hydrant.
- Mobile Units shall not block access to a Fire Department Connection (FDC).
- Mobile Units shall not obstruct any access to or exit from a structure.

Electricity Issues:

- Mobile Units shall not use electricity from a nearby structure.
- No excessive use of extension cords.
- Breaker boxes and junction boxes shall have proper cover.
- All wiring must be in conduit.
- Improper use of electrical accessories and overloading of circuits prohibited.



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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.
- Propane cylinders need to be requalified every 12 yrs. A current date of manufacture if new or requalification stamp is required on all cylinders.

Propane Cylinder Location:

- Propane cylinders shall not be located:
 - On rear bumpers or roofs
 - Below the lowest part of the vehicle frame
 - Inside improperly vented or unvented trucks or beds of vehicles
 - Inside passenger compartments of vehicles
 - On soil
- The propane storage compartment shall be ventilated with at least two vents(one top of compartment and one bottom of compartment), each vent having an aggregate area equal to at least .5 square inches for each 7 lb. of the total propane fuel capacity of the maximum number of the largest cylinders the compartment can hold.
- Vendor will be required to have propane cylinders on vehicle to demonstrate how cylinders are secured to vehicle. Propane cylinders must be secured as to prevent propane bottle from leaving mount or cage in the event of vehicle crash or rollover.



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- The relief valve discharge from the propane cylinder shall not be less than 3 feet 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

Propane Cylinder Equipment:

- All cooking appliances shall be listed for the use with propane.
- All appliances must be properly modified for use with propane.
- Appliances required to be vented (by the manufacturer's recommendations, usually greater than 40,000 BTUs) must be converted for the use with propane by a Master Plumber licensed by the Texas Railroad Commission. Documentation of proper conversion by a plumber must be provided at the time of 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 overall length.
- Piping shall be tested annually at not less than 3 psig for 10 minutes before appliances are connected and at system pressure after connection by a licensed LPG technician. Documentation of test, within 90 days of inspection, must be provided at time of inspection and must include:
 - Must provide original document at inspection. (Not a copy)
 - Pressure and duration of test
 - Name, address, license number and phone number of technician performing test.
 - License plate number of mobile vending unit
- Manual shutoff valves on gas lines are required at the point of use (the appliance) and at the supply.



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Propane at Fixed Sites:

- Cylinders must be 10 feet away from combustibles
- Cylinders cannot be within 6 feet of electric power lines over 600 Volts
- The relief valve discharge on the cylinder must be 5 feet from exterior sources of ignition, openings into direct vent appliances, and mechanical ventilation air intakes.

Fire Suppression:

- Each Mobile Unit will be required to have a proper fire extinguisher inside of their vehicle (2A10BC fire Extinguisher)
- Each fire extinguisher will need to be mounted in a conspicuous location where it can be located quickly.
- Each fire extinguisher will need to be serviced annually and maintain a current tag confirming its status.
- If any grease-laden vapors are produced from cooking then a Class K Fire Extinguisher is required.
- All gas, solid, or liquid fuel burning inside a trailer or vehicle must be vented to the outside with an approved venting system and spark arrestor.



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WCESD No. 4 Inspection Requirements

Units utilizing propane or similar fuels must provide the following items for the WCESD NO. 4 Inspector at the time of inspection. Questions regarding these requirements are directed to call (512)515-5165.

- Valid invoice of **annual** pressure test performed on unit.
- Fire Extinguisher type 2A10BC with an annual fire inspection with tag from a Texas licensed company. If a Class K Extinguisher is required then it must also have an annual fire inspection with tag from a licensed company.
- Documentation of approved appliance testing- such as UL or CSA listing.