

# **WINNETKA FIRE DEPARTMENT**



## **Fall and Winter COVID-19 Outdoor Dining Guidance**

In addition to following guidance for indoor and outdoor dining provided by other governmental agencies, including the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Cook County Health Department, the following should be used as safety guidelines for consideration when providing outdoor dining during the fall and winter months, which are not inclusive of all the applicable Village codes:

### **Temporary Outdoor Structures:**

- Permits are required for tents more than 400 square feet and canopies more than 700 square feet. (IFC 3103.2) Please refer to the Village's Application for Tent Permit regarding additional tent guidelines and specifications.
- If using temporary domes or greenhouses for dining, please refer to Minimum Safety Guidelines for Green Houses.
- Per the State of Illinois' guidance, tents may be used for **outdoor dining** if at least two sides of the tent are open to allow airflow.
- If more than two sides of a tent are enclosed, this is considered "**indoors.**" These tents as well as plastic domes and small green houses, may be used for dining and should have adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation.
- All structural materials should have a fire-resistant certification of flame certification showing material is fire-rated or non-combustible.
- Temporary structures must be weighted, anchored, or secured to the ground, but cannot be anchored with any method that requires screwing, cutting or drilling into the public way (e.g. on streets or sidewalks).
- Use of tents and other temporary structures may be deemed unsafe and prohibited during severe weather events (wind, snow, etc.). Restaurants should have an inclement weather plan in writing and train staff to prevent any injuries in storms, snow, or other unsafe conditions.
- Use of temporary structures on the public right of way requires separate Village approval. Please contact the Community Development Department at 847-716-3522.

### **Use of Outdoor Heating Appliances on Private Property:**

- Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances are prohibited inside of a structure, within 5 feet of a building, overhang, awning, umbrella, etc. The appliance shall not be located within 5 feet of an exit or exit discharge (IFC 603.4.2)

## Heating, Lighting, & Other Appliance Considerations for Use in Outdoor Seating Areas (Cont'd)

- Heating appliances shall be installed and maintained per manufacturer's instructions. The heating element or combustion chamber shall be permanently guarded to prevent accidental contact by persons or materials. (IFC 603.5)
- Only listed and labeled portable electric space heaters shall be used, plugged directly into an approved receptacle and shall not use an extension cord. Heaters shall also maintain proper clearances per the manufacturer. (605.10.1- 605.10.3) If a heating device requires new electrical wiring, it must be installed by a licensed electrical contractor, who will obtain an electrical permit from the Village.

### Outdoor Fires/Fireplaces/Fire Pits:

- All outdoor fires shall be under continuous competent supervision. (WVC 307.4.3)
- No outdoor fire, including but not limited to, fires in outdoor fireplaces, outdoor pizza ovens, fire pits and similar devices, shall be used in such a manner or location that it causes any building fire alarm to activate or that it otherwise creates a hazardous or objectionable condition. (WVC 307.4.3)
- All portable outdoor fireplaces, fire pits and similar devices, and all such devices that are permanently installed, shall be located and operated at least fifteen (15) feet from any building, structure or combustible material. (IFC/WVC 307.4.3)
- Authority to extinguish. The code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of any outdoor fire that is not in compliance with this code or that otherwise creates a hazardous or objectionable condition. (WVC 307.4.3)

### Electrical Devices & Extension Cords

- Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition, be rated for the environment, not exceed 100 feet in length, and not be rated less than the ampacity of the portable appliance connected (605.5.3)
- Extension cords shall be grounding type plugged directly into an approved GFCI receptacle, power tap or multiplug adapter and shall serve only one portable appliance. (605.5.1)
- Cords shall be routed as to not present a trip or safety hazard and if run overhead shall be carried by a messenger wire or other approved method (NEC 400)
- All cords and wiring must comply with National Electrical Code (NEC 400)

The above guidelines are minimum requirements. Full details are found in Chapters 6 and 31 of the 2015 IFC and the 2015 NEC. Questions or requests for variations from the code should be directed to the Winnetka Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at 847-501-6029.