



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Division

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

GUIDELINE E.03 – Use and Storage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers

E.03.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to assist with understanding the requirements for the use and storage of portable liquefied petroleum gas containers awaiting use, resale, or exchange and portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances.

E.03.2 SCOPE

All commercial occupancies shall comply with the requirements of the California Fire Code and this guideline for the use and storage of portable liquefied petroleum gas containers, whether awaiting use, resale, or exchange or for portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances.

E.03.3 DEFINITION

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP-Gas) – A material which is composed predominantly of the following hydrocarbons or mixtures of them: propane, propylene, butane (normal butane or isobutene) and butylenes.

E.03.4 PROCEDURE

Applications are submitted online via the City's website:

https://css.newportbeachca.gov/EnerGov_Prod/SelfService#/home

A site plan shall be uploaded with the application and include the following items:

1. Quantity of LP-Gas containers and their size in gallons or pounds.
2. Location of the approved enclosure for storage of containers and/or location of portable heating appliances if cylinders are stored inside the appliance.
3. Location of all structures and exits including neighboring property if applicable.

4. Location of combustibles, such as weeds, grass, brush, trash, and other combustible materials, in the area of cylinder storage and/or use.

The application and site plan will be reviewed by the Fire Code Official and a site visit conducted if necessary. Upon approval, an annual permit will be issued.

E.03.5 STORAGE

1. Storage of LP-Gas containers awaiting use, resale, or exchange and for portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall comply with the following conditions:
 - Containers shall be stored in a lockable ventilated enclosure of metal exterior construction.
 - Vehicular protection shall be provided as follows:
 - Constructed of steel not less than 4" in diameter and concrete filled.
 - Spaced not more than 4' between posts on center.
 - Set not less than 3' deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15" diameter.
 - Set with the top of the posts not less than 3' above ground.
 - Located not less than 3' from the protected object.
 - Separation from exposures of LP-Gas containers shall be as follows (720 lbs. or less):
 - 5 feet away from doorway or opening to a building with 2 or more exits.
 - 10 feet away from a doorway or opening to a building with one exit.
 - 10 feet away from combustible materials.
 - 20 feet away from motor vehicle fuel dispensers.
 - A "No Smoking" sign shall be posted.
 - An 18 lb. B:C rated fire extinguisher shall be provided.
2. Storage of LP-Gas containers inside portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall comply with the following conditions:

- Shall be located at least 5' from buildings.
- Shall not be located beneath or closer than 5' to combustible decorations and overhangs, awnings, sunshades, or similar combustible attachments to buildings.
- Shall not be located within 5' of exits or exit discharges.
- The maximum size of individual gas cylinders connected to heating appliances shall not exceed 20 lbs. (or 5 gallons).

E.03.7 GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Empty containers shall be considered as full containers.
2. Containers, whether empty or full, shall not be stored inside buildings or on roofs.
3. Containers shall not be stored in basements, pits, or similar locations where heavier-than-air gas might collect.
4. Containers in storage shall be located in a manner which minimizes exposure to excessive temperature rise, physical damage, or tampering.
5. Exchanging of gas cylinders shall not be conducted while the public is present.