



BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

25 West End Ave.
Somerville, NJ 08876
Fire Official Keith Thedinga
908-725-2300 x1968



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

FOR COOKING VENDORS & USE OF TENTS/CANOPIES AT PUBLIC EVENTS

Fire Safety Permits:

- All vendors utilizing an open flame or flame producing device shall apply for a Type I permit.
- Tents and canopies of any size used in connection with cooking or heating of food and/or beverages shall apply for a Type I permit.
- Tents or canopies greater than 900 square feet or greater than 30 feet in any one direction shall apply for a Type I permit.
- A \$50 permit fee should be submitted with the permit application at least 10 business days prior to the event. Permit applications are available on the borough website www.somervillenj.org/fireprevention or at Somerville Borough Hall, 25 West End Ave. Somerville, NJ 08876.

Fire Extinguishers:

- A class "K" fire extinguisher is required for all commercial cooking operations.

Cooking Equipment:

- All cooking equipment shall be listed for commercial use. Residential equipment is not permitted.
- Propane tanks shall be secured to prevent falling over.
- Propane tanks and equipment shall comply with NFPA 58/2004.
- Propane tanks shall not be stored or used in buildings/tents.
- Propane tanks shall be kept at least 5 feet from heat sources.

Mobile Canteens & Cooking Trailers:

- All cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors shall be equipped with a ventilation hood and fire suppression system.
- All fire suppression systems shall be inspected and possess a current inspection tag from an approved company.

Tents and Canopies:

- Tents shall be fire retardant in accordance with NFPA 701 and the tent/canopy shall bear a certification/tag stating the same.
- Tents with an occupant load of greater than 50 shall have at least two means of egress and shall have emergency lights and exit signs that have emergency backup power such as batteries.