



Portable Propane Container Storage and Use Food Preparation Areas

The use and storage of propane gas (LPG) for cooking is controlled by the California Fire Code, and regulated by the San José Fire Department. The amount of propane (aggregate quantity) that you can have on site (storage or use) in any area is limited. In addition, the storage and use must be in strict compliance with all applicable Codes and Regulations.

Quantity of Propane in any Area:

1. The maximum amount you can have in one area is **100-gallons**, or **499-pounds**. For the purpose of calculating the quantity, empty containers are considered to be full.
2. A storage/use area must be **at least 20-feet away from any other area**. An individual cooking booth using and/or storing propane is required to be 20-feet away from any other booth using propane, or both booths are considered part of the same area.
3. The Fire Department may approve additional storage areas, if the amount is below 100-gallons and the area separation distance is a minimum of 20-feet.
4. The Fire Department may approve a **“bulk storage area”** for quantities equal to or greater than 101-pounds, or 500-gallons, for the exchange of empty containers. These areas would require prior Fire Department approval and need greater separation distances and additional security precautions.

Additional Safety Requirements for Propane Storage and Use:

5. Propane cylinders must be at least 10-feet away from combustibles, weeds, grass, brush, cardboard, or trash.
6. Propane cylinders must be protected from public access by a fixed barrier.
7. Propane cylinders must be protected from damage, stored in an upright position, and be firmly secured on a substantially level surface.
8. Storage areas shall be set up to minimize tampering and exposure to high temperatures.
9. Propane cylinders must all be labeled “Flammable”, and “LPG” or “Propane.”
10. Propane cylinders must have a cap, or collar to prevent damage from falling or tipping.
11. Propane storage areas shall not be near a means of egress. (Each vendor/food booth shall have at least one clear unobstructed exit pathway, 3” wide by 6’8” high.
12. **Smoking is prohibited within 15-feet. “No smoking” signs shall be posted.**
13. **Each cooking booth shall have a fire extinguisher** with a minimum rating of **2A:10BC**. Booths with **deep-fat frying of flambé cooking** shall also have a **Type “K” extinguisher**.