

CITY OF FORT COLLINS

FALL AND WINTER COVID-19 OUTDOOR DINING GUIDANCE

As we enter the fall and winter months, this document provides guidance for restaurants and bars to continue operating outdoors safely and responsibly. As a reminder, all outdoor spaces must have a Temporary Outdoor Dining and Retail Expansion Permit.

Installation of structures and/or heating devices MUST be inspected prior to use. Email engineering@fcgov.com for an inspection.

Structures

Temporary outdoor structures, including tents, are allowed on private property or the public way under the following regulations:

- Enclosed structures, such as plastic domes, may be used for individual parties and must have adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation
- Temporary outdoor structures shall obtain a Poudre Fire Authority Tent Permit if the structure has no walls (canopy) and exceeds 700 square feet, or if the structure has 1 or more walls (tent) and exceeds 400 square feet.
 - For more information, see PFA's [Tent Permit website](#) and PFA's [Tent Installation and Operation Guidelines](#)
- Temporary structures shall 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 (i.e. on streets or sidewalks)
- All structural materials shall have a fire-resistant certification or flame certification showing material is fire-rated or noncombustible
- CO monitoring is required when heating devices are in use
- Use of tents and other temporary structures may be deemed unsafe and prohibited during severe weather events (wind, snow, etc.)
- Trees are to be protected and tents shall be located a minimum of 3' away from any branches (if pruning is desired then a licensed arborist is required to perform the work). Nothing is to be attached or hung from trees
- Any damaged landscaping will need to be replaced immediately following the removal of the tents

Heating Devices

Heating Devices are allowed but must meet the following operational regulations:

- Natural gas heaters or any devices fueled with propane must be listed for use within the enclosure and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- Operators shall abide by any recommended safety guidelines issued with a specific product (see the product's operations manual)
- Heating equipment should be disconnected for overnight storage, and employees shall be trained in proper installation of fuel tanks and in detecting leaks
- Establishment shall maintain clearance between heaters and all other objects, including tent sides. Required minimum clearance shall be maintained per the manufacturer's specifications
- Trees are to be protected and shall be located a minimum of 3' away from any branches

Safety Considerations

Follow these additional safety considerations to ensure responsible operations:

- Outdoor spaces with heating devices shall keep devices away from combustible materials, such as tents, at all times
- Enclosed areas with heating devices shall have clearly marked entrances and exits
- Businesses shall have sufficient fire extinguishers to cover indoor and outdoor spaces
- Restaurants shall provide written inclement weather plans and training to staff to prevent any injuries in storms, snow, or other unsafe situations
- All snow must be cleared from the outdoor spaces by the business

Hours of Operation

Hours of operation have been changed to reflect Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Larimer County guidance:

- [County guidance](#)
- [State guidance](#)

10/9/20

Note – this guidance is subject to change.