

Guideline: Use of Propane Heaters on University of Michigan Property

Issue Date: September 8, 2021

Revision: January 22, 2026

Applies to: Any individual making a request to make use of propane fueled heating appliances for outdoor use on property owned by the University of Michigan on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses.

Summary

To accommodate requests for use of propane fueled heating appliances in outdoor venues on University of Michigan property, the following guidelines are established.

Procedure

Any person(s) wishing to use a propane fueled heating appliance on University of Michigan Property must follow the procedures as outlined below.

- A [Special Event Request Form](#) shall be filled out and submitted for review and approval. If you have any questions, please contact University of Michigan Facilities and Operations Special Events Office at 734-764-3386 and/or fo-events@umich.edu.
- Contact University of Michigan EHS Fire Safety Services at 734-647-1143 and/or EHSFiresafety@umich.edu at a minimum of 14-days in advance of the proposed date. EHS Fire Safety Services will conduct a safety review prior to the event.
- Propane fueled heaters must be used in accordance with their listing and manufacturer instructions, and must be UL listed/CSA safety-rated.
- Propane fueled heaters must have over-heat protection, an anti-tilt device and automatic shut-off feature in case they tip over.
- Propane fueled heaters may not be used inside tents or membrane structures, inside buildings, or interior enclosed courtyards of buildings.
- Propane fueled heaters must be kept at least 20 feet away from tents, membrane structures, and buildings.
- Propane fueled heaters may not be used within 20 feet of combustible materials.
- Portable LP Gas containers may not be used or stored inside buildings, and may not be stored closer than:
 - Five (5) feet from any doorway or opening of a building having two means of egress.
 - Ten (10) feet from any opening or doorway of a building having only one means of egress.
 - Twenty (20) feet away from any automotive service station fuel dispenser.
- Portable LP Gas containers shall be securely fastened in place to prevent unauthorized movement or accidental tipping.
- Propane LP Gas containers shall be within the cylinders stamped hydrostatic testing timeline.
- Hoses, if used, must remain as short as possible, visible, and protected from damage and tripping hazards. It is preferred to use propane fueled heaters that have a housing to enclose the cylinder.
- Propane fueled heaters may not be left operating while unattended and must be supervised at all times



when in use.

- Valves on LP Gas containers shall be closed when the heaters are not in use.
- Propane fueled heaters may not be used in high winds (25 mph) and must incorporate the use of a thermocouple flame failure device that responds to changes in temperature and shuts off the fuel valve if the flame goes out.
- A serviceable ABC fire extinguisher with a current inspection tag shall be available in the immediate area at all times the propane fueled heater(s) are in use.