



**ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION
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Policy# 09-015 Propane Patio Heaters and Propane Storage; IFC 2404, 3803, NFPA 58

This bulletin presents a summary and explanation of the International Fire Code regarding approved use of propane-fired patio heaters in commercial occupancies as well as the use and storage of propane fuel.

Propane fueled equipment is regulated in the above referenced code sections and elsewhere. ***Equipment may not be used, and propane may not be stored underneath tents, canopies, or other temporary membrane structures (2404.16.2).*** With a few exceptions, propane may not be used or stored inside of buildings.

Patio heaters may be used outside of commercial occupancies under the following conditions:

1. Heaters and BBQ's or other propane-fired equipment must be located at least 10 feet from combustibile construction (construction that will burn). See NFPA 58.
2. Heaters and BBQ's or other propane-fired equipment must be located at least 5 feet from exits of assembly occupancies. (NFPA 58)
3. Heaters and BBQ's or other propane-fired equipment may not be stored or used under tents, canopies or other membrane structures – 2404.16.2.
4. Heaters and BBQ's or other propane-fired equipment must be installed and used in accordance with their listing.

