

# CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS TEMPORARY DINING MODIFICATIONS DURING COVID-19 & SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

Recognizing the importance of alternative dining options for City of Colorado Springs' physical and economic health is imperative, especially as we move from warm weather conditions into winter temperatures and elements. This document offers guidance on meeting fire, zoning, and El Paso County Public Health's code requirements specific to temporary dining while providing patrons, employees, and the city with healthful, warm, and safe experiences. This document does not address additions or modifications to a permanent structure's interior. Contact [Pikes Peak Regional Building Department](#) when planning to add to or modify a permanent structure's interior.



## EXPAND OUTDOOR DINING SPACE

Colorado Springs Planning and Community Development (CSPCD) issues temporary use permits and revocable permits to restaurants and bars approved to expand dining and consumption areas to private parking lots, sidewalks, café patio extensions, and balcony seating.

- **PRIVATE** parking lots, landscape, or hardscape areas used for outdoor dining requires a [CSPCD Temporary Use Permit](#).
- **PUBLIC** sidewalks or parking spaces used for outdoor dining requires a [CSPCD Revocable Permit](#).
- For more information on Permits to Expand Outdoor Dining Space visit the [City's website](#).

**NOTICE:** Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD), Colorado Springs Planning and Community Development (CSPCD), and El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) are separate entities representing different and specific codes (fire, zoning, and health). Permits are code specific therefore, more than one permit may be necessary.



## TEMPORARY STRUCTURE ON APPROVED EXPANDED OUTDOOR DINING SPACE

Consideration for the assembly, construction, and ventilation of temporary structures is imperative when providing diners with temporary dining options. Therefore, dining and consumption businesses must determine their temporary structure classification of either Indoor or Outdoor.

Classifications for temporary structures are available on the [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Temporary Outdoor Structures for Restaurants and Events](#) webpage and honored by EPCPH.

Temporary structures assembled for occupancy on a CSPCD approved expanded outdoor dining space requires a [CSFD Prescribed \(Revocable\) Permit for Temporary Membrane Structures and Tents](#). On the City's webpage, additional information on [Tents, Canopies, and Membrane Structures](#) can be found.

**NOTICE:** Permits for temporary structures less than 2,400 square feet in size are free of charge.



## GENERAL REQUIREMENT OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

- Structures capable of occupancy by more than one party must have a minimum of two (2) non-adjacent sides open enough to provide airflow through the structure. (Per EPCPH - [Temporary Outdoor Structures for Restaurants and Events](#).)
- Structures, such as plastic domes, may be used for individual parties and must have adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation. (Per EPCPH)
- Structures must be weighted, anchored, or secured to the ground. (Per CSFD)
- Screwing, cutting, or drilling into a public right-of-way (street, sidewalk, etc.) is prohibited. (Per CSPCD)
- Temporary structures must have a fire-resistant certification or flame certification showing material is noncombustible; additional documentation specific to materials may also be required. (Per CSFD)
- Restauranters are responsible for determining when it is unsafe to occupy a temporary structure, for example, during high wind or heavy snowpack weather events. (General liability concern)
- Signage indicating entrances and exits must be visible at all times. (Per CSFD)
- Fire extinguishers must be accessible at all times. (Per CSFD)
- Cooking and food preparation is NOT ALLOWED within temporary structures. (Per EPCPH)



## HEATING TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

### DEVICES USING NATURAL GAS OR LIQUID PROPANE FOR HEATING TEMPORARY STRUCTURES (PER CSFD)

- ONLY ALLOWED WHEN APPROVED by the fire code official.
- External forced-air propane heaters explicitly designed to provide heat to temporary structures MAY BE ALLOWED when approved by the fire code official.
- Once approved by the fire code official, devices using natural gas or liquid propane:
  - Must be operated and placed in accordance with the manufacturer's listing, operating, and safety manuals/ instructions.
  - Must be operated by employees trained in proper propane fuel tank/bottle/cylinder installation and propane leak detection.
  - MUST have propane tank/bottle/cylinder (cylinder) valves turned to the OFF position when not in use.
  - MUST NOT have their propane cylinders stored in buildings intended for occupancy, including but not limited to basements, interior closets, and storage rooms.
  - MAY store no more than fifteen (15), twenty-pound (20-lb) cylinders within a secured and tamper-proof area, such as a propane cage, detached shed, or other locations approved by the fire code official. Additional storage may require a permit.

### DEVICES USING ELECTRICITY FOR HEATING TEMPORARY STRUCTURES (PER CSFD)

- Must be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's listing, operating, and safety manuals/instructions.
- Must be positioned to prevent physical damage and not be a trip hazard.
- Must be unplugged when not in use (specific to portable electric heating devices only).
- Must use extension cords sized to accommodate the electrical demand.
- New outlets or hard-wired connections may require a permit through Pikes Peak Regional Building Department.



## HEATING SPACES OUTSIDE

### DEVICES USING NATURAL GAS OR LIQUID PROPANE FOR HEATING TEMPORARY STRUCTURES (PER CSFD)

- As approved by the fire code official (including portable outdoor fire pits).
- Must be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's listing, operating, and safety manuals/instructions.
- Must be operated by employees trained in proper propane fuel tank/bottle/cylinder installation and propane leak detection.
- Heaters Must be placed at least five feet (5') from combustible materials (buildings, furniture, etc.), or more, when indicated in the manufacturer's instructions.
- MUST have propane tank/bottle/cylinder (cylinder) valves turned to the OFF position when not in use.
- MUST NOT have their propane cylinders stored in buildings intended for occupancy, including but not limited to basements, interior closets, and storage rooms.
- MAY store no more than fifteen (15), twenty-pound (20-lb) cylinders within a secured and tamper-proof area, such as a propane cage, detached shed, or other locations approved by the fire code official. Additional storage may require a permit.

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FIRE INFORMATION: [Colorado Springs Fire Department](#) | Division of the Fire Marshal | 375 Printers Parkway | 719-385-5978

ZONING (CSPCD) INFORMATION: Urban Planning Manager | Ryan Tefertiller | [ryan.tefertiller@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:ryan.tefertiller@coloradosprings.gov) | 719-385-5382

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION: Retail Food Establishments page on the [elpasocountyhealth.org](http://elpasocountyhealth.org) website or visit this link <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/service/retail-food-establishment-licensing-0> for a fillable application, and email it to [COVIDBusinessRecovery@elpasoco.com](mailto:COVIDBusinessRecovery@elpasoco.com) or call 719-578-3199 opt 3