



Heat in Tents and Membrane Structures

With cold weather quickly approaching, Puget Sound Fire wants to aid your business by outlining a few fire code compliant options for heating your tents and canopies.

Open Flame Heating Not Allowed:

- Portable outdoor gas-fired appliances are prohibited inside tents and membrane structures.
- Open flame devices and similar arrangements are not allowed inside of or within 20 feet of tents and membrane structures.



Portable Space Heaters:

- Can be electric or propane but should be set up outside the tent. Warm air is ducted into the tent from the heater.
- Plugged directly into an approved plug-in and not into an extension cord.
- Should not be operated within 3 feet of any combustible materials.



This type of portable heater is the safest and most efficient type of heater for large tents.

Other Portable Heaters:

- Portable heaters must have an automatic switch which shuts the unit off if it tips over on either side.
- Heating equipment needs to be at least 10 feet from exits or combustible materials.



These heaters must have an automatic shut off switch if tipped over.

Flame Resistant Treatments/Standards:

- It is required that tents and membrane structures be flame retardant. "Flame retardant" does not mean the material will not burn. Flame retardant treatments are not intended to protect against ignition from large open-flame devices (like a furnace or open-flame heater).