



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services



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PETER J. OSTROSKY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To: Heads of All Fire Departments

From: Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Date: March 27, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Temporary Structures

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, temporary testing sites and other emergency actions are being established with tents and heating appliance installations to conduct patient screening operations at various locations across the Commonwealth. Tents over 400 square feet and canopies over 700 square feet are required to obtain a permit from the local building official and are subject to the requirements of 780 CMR, *Massachusetts State Building Code*. Tents (with sides) that are 400 square feet or less and tent canopies that are 700 square feet (without sides) or less do not require a building permit. All tents and canopies must be fire resistant and a certificate of fire resistance is required to obtain a permit. An exception **to the permit requirement** in this section is allowed at locations on state owned properties, but installations must be done in accordance with 780 CMR.

527 CMR 1.00, *Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code*, also requires compliance for heating using propane regardless of the temporary nature of an installation. 527 CMR 1.00: Chapter 69.3.12.6 references 2014 NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, for the storage and use of any LP-fueled heating appliances. Massachusetts amends this section and requires a permit from the local fire department for storage over 42 lbs. (10 gal) and any appliances must be installed and maintained in accordance with their listing and labeling. An exception **to the permit requirement** in this section is allowed at locations on state owned properties, but installation and operation must be done in accordance with 527 CMR 1.00.

If you have a temporary structure proposed within your jurisdiction in response to COVID-19 and have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 (business hours), (508) 820-2000 (MEMA Dispatch after hours) or via email at paul.vigneau@mass.gov for assistance.