

# Open Flame Devices

## Purpose

To address the safety considerations and fire code requirements for the use of open flame devices inside the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

## Scope

This policy covers the use of any and all open flame devices being used inside the Virginia Beach Convention Center building, and any and all temporary structures located within the curtilage of the convention center property.

## Definitions

**Open Flame:** The glowing gaseous part of a fire that has no enclosing or protective barrier.

**Decorative Materials:** All materials applied over the building interior finish for decorative, acoustical or other affect (such as curtains, draperies, fabrics, streamers, and surface coverings) and all other materials utilized for decorative effect (such as Batting, cloth, cotton, hay, stalks, straw, vines, leaves, trees, or moss.

**Open Flame- Cooking Device:** Appliance used for the purpose of heating food and/or keeping food warm that uses an open flame generated by a solid, liquid, or gas fuel.

**Open Flame Decorative Device:** Appliance and/or device used for the purpose illuminating an area or as a decoration during a special event (such as a theater performance, wedding, dinner, or religious ceremony) that uses an open flame generated by a solid, liquid, or gas fuel.

**U/L Rated Appliance:** Manufactured appliance that has been tested by Underwriters Laboratories.

**Combustible Material:** A substance that is able be burned to provide heat or power

## Content

Employees of the Virginia Beach Convention Center shall not utilize, or allow to be utilized, an open flame within the convention center and/or temporary structures located within the curtilage of the convention center property, without first obtaining permission of the City Fire Marshal or his representative.

**308.3 Open flame.** A person shall not utilize or allow to be utilized, an open flame in connection with a public meeting or gathering for purposes of deliberation, worship, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, awaiting transportation or similar purpose in assembly or educational occupancies without first obtaining a permit in accordance with Section 105.6.

**308.31 Open-flame decorative devices.** Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions:

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.
2. Liquid or solid fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak at a fuel rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26ml per minute) if tipped over.
3. The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.

**Exception:** Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26ml per minute) if tipped over.

5. The flame shall not be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375 inch (9.5 mm) diameter or where openings are on the top

and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.

6. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open flame device.

**Exception:** A chimney is not required to be attached to any open flame device that will self extinguish if the device is tipped over.

7. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.
8. Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
9. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in a place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.

**308.3.2 Location near combustibles.** Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials.

**308.3.3 Aisles and exits.** Candles shall be prohibited in areas where occupants stand, or in an aisle or exit.

**308.3.4 Religious ceremonies.** When in the opinion of the code official, adequate safeguards have been taken, participants in religious ceremonies are allowed to carry hand-held candles. Hand-held candles shall not be passed for one person to another while lighted.

**308.6 Flaming food and beverage preparation:** The preparation of flaming foods and beverages in places of assembly (Virginia Beach Convention Center) shall be accordance all requirements set forth in the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code.

1. Flammable and combustible liquid used in the preparation of flaming foods or beverages shall be dispensed from one of the following.
  - A 1-ounce (29.6ml) container; or
  - A container not exceeding 1-quart (946.5 ml) capacity with a controlled pouring device that will limit the flow to a 1-ounce (26.6 ml) serving.
2. Fuel container not in use shall be secured.
3. The serving of flaming foods or beverages shall be done in a safe manner and shall not create high flames. The pouring, ladling or spooning of liquids is restricted to no more than 8 inches above the receiving receptacle.
4. Flaming foods or beverages shall be prepared only in the immediate vicinity of the table being serviced. They shall not be transported or carried while burning.
5. The person preparing the flaming food or beverage shall have a wet cloth towel available for use in smoldering flames in the event of a fire.

**Exception:**

1. The use of small U/L approved butane burners may be used by convention center chefs for the purpose of preparing hot food at a chef assisted food station in areas of the convention center other than the kitchen. These appliances must be rated for commercial use.

When a burner is being used by food service personal he/or she shall.

- Have a fire extinguisher at the cooking station along with a wet cloth towel available for use in smoldering flames in the event of a fire.
- Have the burner located on a non-combustible service and in such manner as to prevent flame from contacting any combustible material.
- Not leave the burner unattended at any time.

The use of open flame cooking devices by the general public visiting the Virginia Beach Convention Center is prohibited unless approval has been obtained from the Fire Marshal or his representative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Ramsey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

---

**James Ramsey**  
**Virginia Beach Fire Department**  
**Fire Marshal**