

SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE SAFETY ADVICE SHEET

FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FOR CATERERS AT OUTDOOR EVENTS

Introduction

This advice sheet offers fire safety guidance to promoters and persons providing catering services **within tents and marquees** used at agricultural and horticultural shows, circuses, fairs, garden parties, sports meetings and similar events, to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the fire safety arrangements at such events are satisfactory and present no danger to relevant persons or property.

The guidance is given without prejudice to any further requirements that may be made under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, prior to such events taking place.

FIRE PLAN

All catering managers and staff should be conversant with the action to be taken in the event of a fire and should be instructed on the following-:

- How to raise the alarm
- How to call the Fire and Rescue Service
- The location and availability of the nearest telephone
- How to assist in the evacuation of tents and marquees in an orderly manner in the shortest possible time
- How to attack a fire in a safe and efficient manner using the equipment provided, whilst awaiting the arrival of the Fire and Rescue Service
- The correct procedure for dealing with a leakage or fire involving liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) appliances or cylinders

FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

- Caterers should provide adequate appropriate fire fighting equipment for each individual catering area. Dry Powder or Wet Chemical Foam type extinguishers are the most suitable for catering areas.
- Fire fighting equipment should be sited in a conspicuous and readily accessible location, in close proximity to the cooking area
- A fire blanket should be mounted at a suitable height to facilitate quick and easy removal
- All portable fire fighting equipment should be periodically inspected, maintained and tested in accordance with British Standard 5306 Part3: 2003
- Depending on the size and location of the cooking installation, consideration should be given to the provision of a fire suppression system capable of controlling an outbreak of fire

LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL APPARATUS

Adequate lighting should be provided inside the tent or marquee during the hours of darkness. Lighting should be powered by electricity and provision should be made for emergency power to be available in the event of a failure of the primary supply. Generators should be sited a safe distance away from tents and marquees.

All electrical wiring and apparatus should comply with current IEE Regulations.

COOKING PROCESSES

The main causes of fire are ignition of cooking oil, combustion of crumbs and sediment deposits, and, where fitted, duct work fires from a build up of fat and grease.

The siting of cooking processes close to combustible materials can lead to rapid fire growth and spread other parts of the site and should, therefore, be avoided

In order to reduce the risk of fire from cooking processes, consideration should be given to the following, appropriate to the size and location of the installation:-

- A regular programme for inspection and cleaning to prevent build up of crumbs and other combustible material
- Fire resisting containers for waste products
- Regular monitoring of oil and heat levels even after the cooking process is complete

- Ducting, joints and supports should be able to withstand high cooking temperatures and should be insulated (where necessary) to prevent ignition of nearby combustible materials
- A programme of regular electrical, gas and mechanical maintenance by competent persons

LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG)

Where LPG is to be used, cylinders should be located outside tents and should be handled and charged only by competent persons who are fully conversant with the supplier's instructions.

Further information and advice regarding the use of LPG can be obtained from The LP Gas Association at www.lpga.co.uk or from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's Advice Sheet AS 15/2008 – Safe use of LPG Cylinders, available at www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Spaces between tents and beneath stands should be kept clear of paper and rubbish. These spaces should not be used to store combustible materials
- Metal bins should be provided for rubbish, especially where refreshments are served
- Arrangements should be made to regularly collect rubbish and remove to a place remote from tentage
- Incineration of rubbish should not commence until all tentage has been taken down. However, where tents are erected for long periods, arrangements should be made to regularly remove rubbish from the site
- Loose straw or straw bales should not be used inside tents
- All grass on the site should be cut as short as possible and the cuttings removed. If the site is erected during spells of dry weather, the ground should be wetted before the erection of tents/marquees

For further information on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 please contact:

- Department for Communities and Local government - <http://www.communities.gov.uk>
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service - www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

Or for general fire safety matters, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service can be reached on **01743 260 260** or via our web site at **www.shropshirefire.gov.uk**