

SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
STANDARD

July 1, 2010



**Retail Sale of Small
Portable Propane Containers**

PURPOSE

This bulletin is a summary of Fire Department interpretations of City, State and Federal Codes. Information contained herein applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances. This bulletin refers to containers stored or placed at retail establishments such as stores and service stations. Additionally, it applies to containers with a capacity of 2.5 gallons up to 7 gallons water capacity whether full, partially-full or empty.

CODE REFERENCES

Fire Code (UFC), Article 82
1994 Uniform Fire Code Standard 82-1
Santa Rosa City Code 18-44

PERMIT(S) REQUIRED

A permit shall be required for retail operations storing more than 125 gallons (600 lbs.) aggregate water capacity (5 gallons = 20 lbs. and 7 gallons = 30 lbs.).

1. Plans shall be submitted for all such retail operations, regardless of whether a permit is required or not. When approved by the Fire Department, drawings need not be to scale, but measurements necessary to determine compliance with the requirements outlined in this bulletin shall be clearly identified. Plans may be completed by the property or business owner and shall be legible and complete. All plans shall minimally contain the following information:
 - A. Business information including address of retail site, business name and owner or contact person.
 - B. Name, address, and phone number of person submitting the proposal.
 - C. Site drawing with storage location identified. Also identified will be location and distance to any building openings, vehicle travel lanes, property lines, electrical installations, underground vaults, air intakes/vents, and any other above ground flammable or combustible liquid storage.
 - D. Aggregate quantity to be stored for retail purposes.
 - E. Method of protecting the containers from vandalism, vehicular traffic and other physical damage.
 - F. Any supporting information needed to assure the installation meets all applicable requirements (i.e. equipment cut sheets and manufacturer=s information on devices).
2. Storage Protection shall be provided as identified below:
 - A. When storage is in close proximity to alleys, driveways and parking areas, LP-gas containers shall be suitably protected against vehicular damage.
 - B. Containers shall be installed within suitable enclosures to protect against damage and tampering.

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Storage For Retail Sales of Small Portable Propane Containers

- C. Container valves shall be protected at all times. Screw-on type caps or collars shall be securely in place for all containers whether full, partially-full or empty. Container outlet valves shall be closed and plugged or capped.
- D. Containers for retail sale are not be connected to any equipment or appliance for use at the retail establishment.
- E. Appropriate signs shall be provided including but not limited to NFPA placarding and No smoking@.

3. Containers shall be stored in accordance with the following:

- A. There shall be a minimum of 10 foot clearance from the storage area to combustibles of any kind.
- B. Storage shall not be located within 10 feet of exits, stairways or in areas normally used or intended to be used for safe egress of people.
- C. Storage at a retail facility as described in this bulletin shall not exceed an aggregate storage capacity of 1000 pounds water capacity (1000 lbs. = 408 lbs propane or 57 gallons), unless approved by the Fire Chief.
- D. Any aggregate storage of 501 pounds or more LP-gas shall be right of ways, underground vaults, and air intakes.
- E. Storage of containers shall be located in a manner which minimizes exposure to excessive temperature rise, physical damage and tampering.
- F. Storage shall not occur inside buildings frequented by the public.
- G. Containers shall be positioned with the pressure-relief valve in direct communication with the vapor space of the container.
- H. Storage units shall have appropriate seismic protection.

4. Fire Extinguisher:

- A. A minimum 40-B rated fire extinguisher shall be provided within 30 feet of storage.

NOTE: Inspections shall be scheduled a minimum of 48 hours in advance. Directions for scheduling are found at: <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/news/Pages/AutomatedFireInspectionRequestSystem.aspx>