



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
FIRE DEPARTMENT /FIRE PREVENTION  
1 Franey Rd  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145  
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## **Portable Propane Fuel Gas Heating Equipment For Licensed Establishments**

Businesses that have approved outdoor seating by the Somerville Licensing Commission, may apply for a special permit for outdoor heaters. Prior to requesting a permit for outdoor heaters, applicants are required to contact the Fire Prevention office at [fireprevention@somervillema.gov](mailto:fireprevention@somervillema.gov) or 617-625-6600 x8400 to schedule an onsite inspection. An inspection is required to determine proper propane storage, placement and to discuss propane safety.

### **Regulations**

- 1. Portable heaters must be at least 10 feet away from any tent**
2. A letter is required from the property owner or landlord granting permission for use of heaters
3. Heaters must be used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions
4. Heaters must be listed and labeled for use as a commercial grade patio heater (No homemade heaters)
5. Heaters must be equipped with an electronic ignition
6. Heaters must be secured to prevent being tipped over
7. Heaters CAN NOT obstruct ingress or egress
8. Heaters must be at least three feet away from any combustibles (not under any canopy, tent or tarp)
9. Heaters must be located on an even surface
10. Heaters must be located at least five feet away from any exit/entrance
11. Heaters must be at least five feet away from any foot traffic
12. Heaters must be allowed to cool for at least 30 minutes before covering them or putting them away

### **Storage of Propane**

1. Stored in the base of the heater with the valve shutoff
2. Stored in a locked cage at least 20' feet away with no smoking signage (spare tanks)
3. Shall not be stored inside any structure or vehicle

### **Permitting During COVID-19**

1. The mayor of the city has waived the \$100 permit fee for businesses requesting heaters
2. As of 28 August, all propane heater permits will expire on 31 December 2020 (subject to change)