



## Requirements for 700 Square Feet Canopies or Smaller

To ensure that life safety conditions are met when small commercial fabric canopies are used for temporary events, the following Bellevue Fire Department guidelines and conditions are required:

**Permits** - Under the requirements of the International Fire Code\* a Fire Department Permit is not required for canopies having an area of 700 square feet (sq. ft.) or less provided that:

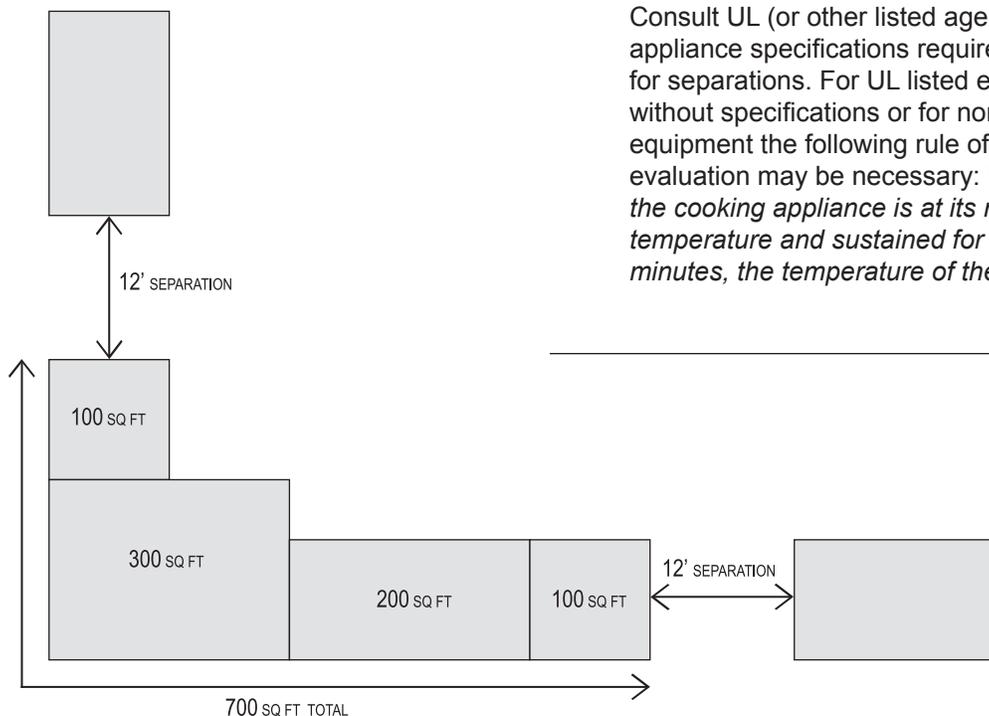
- The canopy is open on all sides.
- The aggregate area of multiple canopies placed side by side shall not exceed 700 sq. ft.
- When side by side small canopies reach an accumulative area of 700 sq. ft., a 12 ft. fire break between them shall be required. (see diagram below)

- A minimum clearance of 12 ft. shall be required from all structures.
- The canopy shall not be for assembly use such as the seating or gathering of more than 50 people for any purpose.
- Canopies shall be for temporary use and shall not be erected for a period of more than 180 days within a 12-month period on single premises.

## Additional guidelines for small canopies meeting the above requirements

**Cooking** - Cooking within small open air canopies or the use of other open-flame appliances may be permitted provided the following safety requirements are met:

- Portable open-flame devices fueled by flammable or combustible gases, liquids, solid fuels such as charcoal briquettes or electrical appliance shall be installed in such a manner as to prevent heat or flame from contacting or to come within close proximity of the canopy structure. Consult UL (or other listed agencies) appliance specifications requirements for separations. For UL listed equipment without specifications or for non listed equipment the following rule of thumb evaluation may be necessary: *When the cooking appliance is at its maximum temperature and sustained for at least 20 minutes, the temperature of the canopy*



*over the appliance may not exceed 120 degrees.* A 2 ft. minimum clearance shall be required from the above material when cooking within a canopy.

- Canopies used for cooking purposes shall not be accessible to the public.
- Cooking processes that produce airborne burning embers, sparks or grease flairs shall not be permitted under small canopy structures.

**Location** - Canopies shall not be located in designated fire lanes.

**Candles** - Decorative candles shall be in approved holders and located away from combustible materials.

**Flammable Gases** - Propane or other flammable gases shall be kept away from open flame when possible and secured outside the perimeter of the canopy. All flammable gas cylinders shall be secured in an upright position.

**Flammable Liquids** - Gas powered generators shall not be located within small canopies. Containers of gasoline or other flammable liquids shall not be located within small canopies and shall be secured in a remote location not accessible to the public.

**Exits** - Exits shall not be obstructed in any manner. Guy wire and support ropes shall not cross a means of egress at a height of not less than 8 ft. Walking surfaces shall be kept clear and maintained in an approved manner.

**Fire Protection** - A portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2A:10BC rating type or larger shall be provided for each canopy. A portable extinguisher having a minimum 2A:40BC rating shall be provided for each canopy used for cooking or Class K type used for vat fry cooking.

**Bracing** - Canopy structures and their appurtenances shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing.

**Flame Resistance** - Canopies and their appurtenances shall be composed of flame-resistant material or shall be treated with a flame retardant material in an approved manner. The structure shall have a permanent affixed label bearing the identification of size and fabric or material type.

**Electrical Cords** - Extension cords shall service one appliance and shall be three-wire type grounded. All cords shall be protected from physical damage and foot traffic. Spliced wires and open junction boxes are not permitted.

The rated electrical capacity of the appliance shall not exceed the rated capacity of the extension cord.

**Inspection** - A Fire Department inspection may be required for the use of small commercial canopies dependant upon type of structure, type of use or location. Contact the Bellevue Fire Prevention Division of the Bellevue Fire Department for further information at 425-452-6872.

**Other commercial canopies that do not fit within these guidelines because of increased size or type of use may require a Fire Department permit and additional requirements.**

\*International Fire Code, Section 24.03.2 (2006 edition)