A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific topic and does not contain any interpretations or District standards. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to Portable Outdoor Gas-Fired Heating Appliances. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire and Life Safety Division at (925) 838-6600.

1. **Outdoor gas-fired heaters cannot be stored or used on balconies, inside tents or canopies or inside buildings. Units may be stored inside buildings as long as they are not connected to a gas container.**  
   C.F.C 603.4.2.1.1 The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:
   1. Inside of any occupancy where connected to the fuel gas container.
   2. Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.
   3. On exterior balconies **(Exception: applies to installation, refer to Section 6.22 of NFPA 58).**

2. **Units must be located at least 5 feet from buildings.** Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located not less than 5 feet from buildings. C.F.C. 603.4.2.1.2

3. **Units shall not be located beneath or closer than 5 feet of combustible decorations, overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible materials.** Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings. C.F.C. 603.4.2.1.3

4. **Units shall not be located within 5 feet of an exit or exit path.** Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges. C.F.C. 603.4.2.1.4

5. **All units must be listed and approved with space for a fuel container.** Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used. C.F.C. 603.4.2.2.1

6. **Units must be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer’s instructions.** Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. C.F.C. 603.4.2.2.2

7. **Units must have a tip over safety switch that shuts off the flow of gas if the unit is tipped more than 15 degrees from the standing position.** Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees from the vertical. C.F.C. 603.4.2.2.3

8. **The heating element of the units must have a guard to prevent contact with the heat source.** The heating element or combustion chamber of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons or material. C.F.C. 603.4.2.2.4
9. **Gas containers shall be approved.** Only approved Department of Transportation or ASME gas containers shall be used. C.F.C. 603.4.2.3.1

10. **Gas containers in heating devices shall not be changed in a location where the public is present.** Replacement of fuel gas containers in portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be conducted while the public is present. C.F.C. 603.4.2.3.2

11. **Gas containers cannot exceed 20 pounds in capacity.** The maximum individual capacity of gas containers used in connection with portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not exceed 20 pounds. C.F.C. 603.4.2.3.3

12. **Gas containers cannot be stored inside buildings.** Gas containers shall not be stored inside of buildings. C.F.C. 603.4.2.3.4 (Exception: Section 6109.9, Department of Transportation specification cylinders with maximum water capacity of 2.7 pounds used in completely self-contained hand torches and similar applications can be stored or displayed in a building open to the public. The quantity of LP-gas shall not exceed 200 pounds except as provided in C.F.C Section 6109.11), which applies to storage within rooms used for gas manufacturing.

13. **LP-gas containers should be securely stored to protect against tampering. Additional vehicle impact protection may be required by NFPA 58.** LP-gas containers shall be stored within a suitable enclosure or otherwise protected against tampering. Vehicle impact protection shall be provided as required by Section 6107.4. (C.F.C. 6109.13) (Exception: Vehicle impact protection shall not be required of LP-gas containers where the containers are kept in lockable, ventilated cabinets of metal construction).