



# OKLAHOMA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fire Marshal's Office

### AHJ Policies and Guidelines

<b>AHJ #:</b> OKCAHJ-2018-01	<b>Subject of Policy:</b> Outdoor Decorative Gas Appliances	
<b>Code Reference:</b> 2009 IFC, Section 603.1.1 (plus commentary); NFPA 54 section 10.31 thru 10.31.3 and 11.3		
<b>Reviewed By:</b> Prince Morgan <i>PM</i>	<b>Title:</b> Assistant Fire Marshal	<b>Effective Date:</b> 11/06/2018
<b>Approved By:</b> Harold Thompson <i>HT</i>	<b>Title:</b> Fire Marshal	<b>Revision Date:</b> N/A

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification and consistency in what the requirements shall be for permitting, and operation of existing and new-installations of Outdoor Decorative Gas Appliances.

**Description of Code Reference:**

2009 IFC section 603.1.1 (Manufacturer's Instructions) states the installation (Fuel-Fired Appliances) shall be made in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations. Where it becomes necessary to change, modify or alter a manufacturer's instructions in any way, written approval shall first be obtained by the manufacturer. The commentary goes on to state that "Compliance with the appliance manufacturer's installation instructions is a fundamental requirement of all I-Codes and those instructions are an enforceable extension of the code. Federal, state, county or municipal laws might supersede part of the installation instructions or could be applied in addition to the requirements in the instructions".

NFPA 54 (National Fuel and Gas Code) section 10.31 thru 10.31.3 states that Listed outdoor open flame decorative appliances shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturers installation instructions.

NFPA 54 section 10.31.2 states unlisted outdoor open flame decorative appliances shall be installed outdoors in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and with clearances to combustible material of not less than 36 in. from the sides. In no case shall the appliance be located under overhead combustible construction.

**Policy and Guidelines based on The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ):**

Policy shall be to refer to the Code References above, however all Outdoor Decorative Gas Appliances shall require:

1. An operational permit.
2. A non-combustible barrier not less than 36 in. from the flame, and a minimum height of 24 in. (unlisted appliance barrier shall be not less than 36 in. from the sides, and a minimum height of 24 in.).
3. Secured shut off valve and igniter approved by the AHJ.
4. Flame sensor that automatically shuts off fuel supply during flame or pilot blow out.
5. Flame to be enclosed with a non-combustible wind guard that extends as high as the maximum flame height.

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6. Propane requires ventilation (minimum of 36 inches total divided amongst 2 vents on the opposing side of the enclosure).
7. Appliance area be kept clear and free from combustible materials, gasoline and other flammable vapors and liquids.
8. Occupants be alerted to the hazards of high surface temperatures with signage approved by the AHJ.
9. Annual servicing handled by professionals certified in the US by the National Fireplace Institute as NFI specialist or equivalent certification. (maintain service documents on site for a minimum of 3 years).