

Olympia Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal

Fire safety in sanctioned homeless camps. Items a – g, are from the Health and Safety section of the Emergency Housing Ordinance. Indented, italicized, comments are clarifications concerning safety from the Fire Marshal. Safety guidance is applicable in sanctioned and unsanctioned camps.

- a. There shall be no open fires for cooking without pre-approval by the Olympia Fire Department and no open fires for heating;

It is safer if camp occupants use legitimate single burner camping-type cook stoves (white gas or small propane cylinders). Single burner propane, white gas, propane, or charcoal bar-b-que are not considered open flame cooking applications.

OFD will not extinguish small, non-hazardous cooking fires.

Do not enter homeless encampments to extinguish cooking fires unless the fire seems threatening to structures, wildland, or people. Call law enforcement immediately if the situation seems threatening for Olympia Fire Department members.

Olympic Air Pollution Authority rules in the Urban Growth Area ban open wood fires in the City of Olympia. This includes campfires in pits or campground type burning enclosures. Other than fires for cooking, OFD could be called upon to extinguish fires in camps, especially if smoke is present in the surrounding area.

- b. No heating appliances within individual tents are allowed without pre-approval by the Olympia Fire Department;

To be determined on a site visit.

No cooking or heating devices using any flame, propane burner or bar-b-que should be used inside tents, due to the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning and/or potential fire spread.

- c. No cooking appliances, other than microwave appliances, are allowed in individual tents.

No cooking or heating devices using any flame propane burner or bar-b-que should be used inside, including inside tents, due to the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning and/or fire spread.