



Monterey Park Fire Department

Guideline for Candles and Open Flames Fire Clearance Requirements

PURPOSE

This guideline provides the minimum requirements for candles and open flames in assembly areas to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable codes and regulations in the jurisdiction of the City of Monterey. These requirements are contained in the California Fire Code (CFC).

SCOPE

A fire permit is required to use open flames or candles in connection with assembly areas (the gathering of 50 or more persons), dining areas of restaurants or drinking establishments. (CFC Section 105.6.34 & Section 308.3.1)

REQUIREMENTS

The Monterey Park Fire Department requires a fire permit and inspection prior to the use of open flame devices or candles. Appointments shall be scheduled ten days prior to the date of the event and inspected during business hours, no weekend inspections, at the City of Monterey Park City Hall, 320 W. Newmark Avenue, first floor. Call 626-307-1308, Monday-Friday, 7:30A-4:30P to schedule an appointment.

CONTROL SOURCES OF IGNITION

1. Clearance between ignition sources shall be maintained in an approved manner. (CFC 305.1)
2. The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent spillage of wax when the device or holder is not in an upright position. (CFC 308.3.1.3)
3. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical. (CFC 308.3.1.4) **Exception: Units that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill wax.*
4. The flame shall be enclosed except as follows: Opening of the side shall not be more than 3/8-inch diameter. Openings on the top distance to the top shall be such that a piece of tissue paper placed on top will not ignite in 10 seconds. (CFC 308.3.1.5)
5. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached. (CFC 308.3.1.6)