

Fire Department Operational Permit Information

Operational permits and verification letters are valid through December 31st of the year they are issued. Failure to obtain or maintain a valid operational permit or verification letter could jeopardize participation in this program and is a violation of the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC)

What do I need?

Vendors only need to obtain a single Permit **OR** Letter from their local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

- **Permit:** All mobile food preparation vehicles (food trucks) whose operation **uses appliances that produce smoke or grease-laden vapors require an Operational Permit to be issued annually** by their local AHJ, i.e. local fire department or fire district.
- **Letter:** For food trucks that **don't use appliances that produce grease-laden vapors**, a verification letter provided by their local AHJ, i.e. local fire department or fire district, stating that an operational permit is not needed shall be required. The term "grease" refers to animal and vegetable fats and oils that are used to cook food or that are a byproduct of cooking foods.

The local AHJs in the valley are: the Grand Junction Fire Department, Lower Valley Fire District, Clifton Fire Protection District, and the Palisade Fire Department.

How do I get a permit?

To obtain a Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Operational Permit, contact your local AHJs Fire Prevention Bureau or Division to schedule an inspection. The inspection will last approximately 30 minutes. Upon a successful inspection, a permit will be issued. If the inspection results in a failure, a reinspection must be scheduled after corrections have been completed. Permits are only issued to food trucks that have successfully passed their inspection.

Please note, the operational permit issued by the AHJ is **NOT** the inspection vendors are required to get to maintain their automatic fire extinguishing systems and fire extinguishers in accordance with the IFC.

What's looked at?

Operational permit requirements include, but are not limited to:

- **Exhaust hood.** Cooking equipment that produces grease-laden vapors shall be provided with a Type I kitchen exhaust hood in accordance with the IFC.
- **Fire protection.** Cooking equipment shall be protected by an approved automatic fire extinguishing system, with a current system inspection by a qualified individual, in accordance with the IFC. Portable fire extinguishers, both Class K and Class A:B:C, shall be provided in food trucks as required by the IFC.
- **Cooking oil storage tanks.** Cooking oil storage tanks within food trucks shall comply with the IFC.
- **Liquid propane (LP) gas systems.** Where LP gas systems provide fuel for cooking appliances, such systems shall comply with the IFC. A UL 1484 listed and approved propane alarm is required to be installed in food trucks equipped with propane appliances.
- **Compressed natural gas (CNG) systems.** Where CNG systems provide fuel for cooking appliances, such systems shall comply with the IFC. A listed and approved methane alarm is required to be installed in food trucks equipped with CNG appliances.
- **General Fire Code and Life Safety.** All food trucks are required to comply with all electrical, exiting and egress, combustible storage, and hazardous material and activity requirements of the IFC.

I want to know more!

Additional information on permitting requirements can be found on all the valley's fire department's and district's websites. If you have specific questions, please contact any of the agencies listed on page 3 of this packet.

- Grand Junction Fire Department Division of Fire Prevention – (970) 549-5800
- Lower Valley Fire District’s Fire Marshal – (970) 858-3133, Ext #3
- Clifton Fire Protection District - (970) 975-1912
- Palisade Fire Department – (970) 464-5603