



## GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

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Date: March 4, 2024, 2024

To: All Mobile Food Vendors

From: Assistant Chief – Prevention Mike McIntosh

Re: Mobile Food Units and Temporary Cooking Operations

The State of Montana and the City of Great Falls have adopted the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC). With the adoption of the 2021 IFC and the referenced 2021 NFPA 96 standard, new code language has been added pertaining to Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles and Temporary Cooking Operations. The Montana State Fire Marshal has given all Mobile Food Vendors and Temporary Cooking Operations until May 1, 2024 to comply with these new requirements.

The City of Great Falls will require all Mobile Food Vendors and Temporary Cooking Operations to comply with City licensure requirements. A copy of the City license shall be posted in the mobile food or temporary cooking operation. The City of Great Falls and Great Falls Fire Rescue will require a fire safety inspection of the mobile food or temporary cooking operation annually. A copy of the fire inspection report, and the inspection, testing, and maintenance report shall be kept readily available in the mobile food or temporary cooking operation.

***Fire Safety Inspections are completed by appointment only!***  
***Please contact the Great Falls Fire Rescue Fire Prevention Bureau to schedule 406-727-8070.***

### **Applicable Fire Code Information and Reference**

Per the **2021 IFC Section 319 Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles:**

**319.1 General.** Mobile food preparation vehicles that are equipped with appliances that produce smoke or grease-laden vapors, shall comply with this section.

**319.3 Exhaust hood.** Cooking equipment that produces grease-laden vapors shall be provided with a kitchen exhaust hood in accordance with Section 606.

**319.4.1 Fire protection for cooking equipment.** Cooking equipment shall be protected by automatic fire extinguishing equipment systems in accordance with Section 904.13

Per the **2021 IFC Section 904 Alternative Automatic Fire-Extinguishing Systems:**

**904.13 Commercial cooking systems.** The automatic fire-extinguishing system for commercial cooking systems shall be of a type recognized for protection of commercial cooking equipment and exhaust systems of the type and arrangement protected. Pre-engineered automatic dry- and wet-chemical extinguishing systems shall be tested in accordance with UL 300 and *listed* and *labeled* for the intended application. Other types of automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be *listed* and *labeled* for specific use as protection for commercial cooking operations. The system shall be installed in accordance with this code, NFPA 96, its



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listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Automatic fire-extinguishing systems of the following types shall be installed in accordance with the referenced standard indicated, as follows:

1. Carbon dioxide extinguishing systems, NFPA 12.
2. *Automatic sprinkler systems*, NFPA 13.
3. Automatic water mist systems, NFPA 750.
4. Foam-water sprinkler system or foam-water spray systems, NFPA 16.
5. Dry-chemical extinguishing systems, NFPA 17.
6. Wet-chemical extinguishing systems, NFPA 17A.

**Exception:** Factory-built commercial cooking recirculating systems that are tested in accordance with UL 710B and *listed, labeled* and installed in accordance with Section 304.1 of the *International Mechanical Code*.

### Per 2021 NFPA 96 Chapter 11 Fire-extinguishing equipment for mobile and temporary cooking operations:

**11.1.1** Fire-extinguishing equipment for the protection of grease removal devices, hood exhaust plenums, and exhaust duct systems shall be provided.

**11.1.2** Cooking equipment that produces grease-laden vapors shall be protected by a fire-extinguishing system for the protection of grease removal devices, hood exhaust plenums, and exhaust duct systems.

**11.2.3.4** Changes or modifications to the hazard after installation of the fire-extinguishing systems shall result in re-evaluation of the system design by properly trained, qualified, and certified person(s).

### Per 2021 IFC Section 3106 Outdoor assembly events:

**3106.5.1** Cooking appliances or devices that produce sparks or grease-laden vapors or flying embers (firebrands) shall not be used within 20 feet of a tent or temporary structure.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Designated cooking tents not occupied by the public when approved by the fire code official.
2. Tents or structures where cooking appliances are protected with an automatic fire-extinguishing system in accordance with Section 904.13

### Per 2021 NFPA Chapter 17 Additional Requirements for mobile and temporary cooking operations:

**17.3.1** Temporary cooking operations in tents shall comply with NFPA 102 Standards for grandstands, folding and telescopic seating, tents, and membrane structures.