

# FPB POLICY 2016-1: Mobile Food Vendors

Created: January 22, 2016 Effective Date: Immediately  
From the Office of the Fire Prevention Bureau – Phone (515) 283-4240



This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 78-204.5 of the City of Des Moines Municipal Code.

**The following shall apply to any mobile vendors who sell food other than prepackaged items that do not require hot or cold handling procedures within the City of Des Moines.**

## **Requirements:**

**Exhaust Hood:** A Type I hood (with fire suppression system) shall be installed at or above all commercial cooking appliances and domestic cooking appliances used for commercial purposes that produce grease vapors. Commercial kitchen exhaust hoods shall comply with the requirements of the *International Mechanical Code*.

**Maintenance.** Hoods shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with Section 609 of the *International Fire Code* and the *International Mechanical Code*.

**Inspections and tests.** Kitchen hood extinguishing systems shall be inspected and tested at least every six months by a State of Iowa licensed fire protection contractor.

**Fire extinguishers.** An approved 2A:20B:C rated dry chemical fire extinguisher shall be provided on or within the mobile vendor vehicle or trailer. An approved Class K rated fire extinguisher shall be provided within 30 feet (9144 mm) of cooking operations involving solid fuels or vegetable or animal oils and fats.

**Liquefied petroleum gas (LP-gas).** LP-gas shall be in accordance with Chapter 61 and NFPA 58.

**Maximum number and quantity.** A maximum of two LP-gas containers with a total aggregate water capacity of 50 gallons (190 L) is permitted at one mobile vendor.

**LP-gas cylinder hoses.** Hoses shall be designed for a working pressure of 350 psig (2413 kPa) with a safety factor of 5 to 1 and shall be continuously marked with LP-GAS, PROPANE, 350 PSI WORKING PRESSURE, and the manufacturer's name or trademark. Hose assemblies, after the application of couplings, shall have a design capability of 700 psig (4826 kPa). Hose assemblies shall be leak tested at the time of installation at not less the operating pressure of the system in which they are installed.

**Location.** Mobile food vehicles shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of buildings, tents, canopies or membrane structures.

Exception: When mobile food vehicles are positioned on public streets, the distance from buildings may be reduced to 5 feet.

**Inspection.** All mobile vendors who sell food other than prepackaged items that do not require hot or cold handling procedures shall be required to have a fire inspection as part of the licensing process. Only after a mobile vendor has applied through the City Clerk's office and paid the appropriate fees shall the vendor contact the DMFD Fire Prevention Bureau at 515-283-4240 or [firedept@dmgov.org](mailto:firedept@dmgov.org) to schedule an inspection.

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Office of the Fire Marshal  
City of Des Moines Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
2715 Dean Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317  
Office: (515) 283-4240  
Fax: (515) 283-4907  
Email: [firedept@dmgov.org](mailto:firedept@dmgov.org)