



# SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SYRACUSE, MAYOR SHARON OWENS

**Michael J. Monds**  
Chief of Fire

**Elton Davis**  
First Deputy Chief

**Lucas Tortarella**  
Executive Deputy Chief

**Deputy Chiefs**  
James Farewell  
Zachary Smith  
Nicholas Pagano  
David Munski  
George Cowburn

Fire Prevention Bureau  
Syracuse Fire Dept.  
One Park Place  
300 South State Street  
Syracuse, N.Y. 13202

Office 315 448 4777  
Fax 315 448 4779

[SFDsprinkler@syr.gov](mailto:SFDsprinkler@syr.gov)

[FirePrevention@syr.gov](mailto:FirePrevention@syr.gov)

[FireSafetyEd@syr.gov](mailto:FireSafetyEd@syr.gov)

[www.syr.gov](http://www.syr.gov)

## SFD Requirements for Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles

### Purpose

The intent of this guidance is to provide clarification of the requirements for *Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles* (MFPVs).

### Scope

Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles (MFPVs) are defined as vehicles that contain cooking equipment that produce smoke or grease-laden vapors for the purpose of preparing and serving food to the public. Vehicles intended for private recreation shall not be considered mobile food preparation vehicles.

Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles are subject to the requirements of Section 4106 of the 2025 Fire Code of New York State

Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles, operating in the City of Syracuse, that utilize LP-Gas and/or CNG systems must have its LP-Gas/CNG containers and fuel-gas piping system inspected annually per Section 4106 of the 2025 Fire Code of New York State. MFPVs will also be subject to an annual inspection by the Syracuse Fire Department. An operational permit shall be issued by the Syracuse Fire Prevention Bureau, in accordance with Section [NY] 105.5 of the 2025 Fire Code of New York prior to operation.

Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles, that have LP-gas systems providing fuel for cooking appliances, will be required to obtain a Propane Permit issued by the Syracuse Fire Prevention Bureau. These Propane Permits are valid from the date of issuance until the end of the calendar year. The fee for the Propane Permit is \$25 per vehicle.

### Issuance of an Operational Permit for Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles

The Syracuse Fire Department will issue an operational permit to a Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle when the following requirements are met:

1. A completed Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Inspection Affidavit.

The **Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Inspection Affidavit** must be completed by an inspection agency or a company that is registered with the U.S. Department of Transportation to re-qualify LP-gas cylinders. The intent of this 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection is to ensure that system components are free from damage, suitable for the intended service and not subject to leaking.

*Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles that do not possess a completed **Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Inspection Affidavit** will not receive its annual inspection by the Syracuse Fire Department and will not be allowed to operate in the City of Syracuse.*

2. The following items will be checked during the Syracuse Fire Department's annual inspection:

- **Exhaust Hoods:** Exhaust Hoods are installed, inspected and maintained in accordance with Section 606 of the 2025 Fire Code of New York State. Hoods shall be clean with all required filters in place and properly installed.
- **Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems (for the protection of the cooking equipment):** Automatic Fire Extinguishing systems shall be installed, inspected and maintained in accordance with Section 904.14 of the 2025 Fire Code of New York State. Extinguishing systems must have a current inspection tag, be in good shape, and cover cooking surfaces.
- **Fire Extinguishers:** There shall be at least (1) fire extinguisher (minimum of 10 ABC or larger). If the MFPV utilizes a combustible cooking medium (vegetable or animal oil and fats), at least (1) Class K fire extinguisher, in addition to the 10lb ABC extinguisher, is required. Extinguisher(s) must be readily available in the vehicle. Extinguishers must have a current inspection tag (within 12 months) attached and appear to be in good working condition.
- **Vehicle Safety:** Wheel chocks must be used to prevent vehicle and any temporary/wheeled/mobile cooking units from moving once the vehicle is in place.
- **Separation:** Mobile or temporary cooking operations are required to be separated from buildings or structures, combustible materials, vehicles, and other cooking operations by a minimum of 10 ft. (3 m).
- **Tents:** Mobile or temporary cooking may not take place within tents occupied by the public.
- **Seating:** Seating for the public shall not be located within any mobile or temporary cooking vehicle.



- **Fire Department Access:** Mobile or temporary cooking operations shall not block fire department access roads, fire lanes, fire hydrants, or other fire protection devices and equipment.
- **Communication and Training:** An approved method of communication to emergency personnel shall be accessible to all employees. Prior to performing mobile or temporary cooking operations, workers are to be trained in emergency response procedures, including the use of provided extinguishers.
- **Fryers:** All grease fryers shall have a lid provided over the oil vat to be secured to prevent the spillage of cooking oil during transit. This lid shall be secured at all times when the vehicle is in motion. Disposal of used cooking oils shall only be in suitable metal containers or those if provided on site.

When in operation, Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles will be subject to unannounced site inspections by the Syracuse Fire Department.

**MFPV Operational Permits are valid from the date of issuance until the end of the calendar year.**

Operational Permit Placards shall be continuously and conspicuously posted.

The completed **Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Inspection Affidavit** must be kept on site and produced upon request.

Failure to post the operational permit, propane permit or produce **Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Inspection Affidavit**, upon request, may result in the operation being shut down until documentation is verified by the Syracuse Fire Department.

To schedule an inspection contact:

Syracuse Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau  
One Park Place  
300 South State Street  
Syracuse, New York 13202  
315-448-4777  
Email: [FirePrevention@syr.gov](mailto:FirePrevention@syr.gov)

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