

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Unvented Heaters in Restaurants**

**Code:** 2002 Fire Prevention Code  
**Section:** 603.4

**Date:** December 2005

**Question:**

Can a portable propane patio heater be used on an outdoor restaurant patio that has been enclosed from the cold weather with a temporary membrane such as clear plastic?

**Answer:**

No, Section 603.4 states that unvented fuel-fired heating equipment is prohibited in Group A occupancies. A restaurant/patio (Group A-2 Occupancy) would be required to have a vented fuel fired heater installed in accordance with Section 619 of the 2002 North Carolina Fuel Gas Code or an electric heater in accordance with Section 603.5 of the fire code.

**Keywords:**

LP, kerosene