

Open Flames on Campus

This policy applies to the use of open flame inside or within ten feet of all buildings located on the California State University, San Marcos campus property. Lit candles, lanterns, oil lamps and other lighting devices using an open flame or high heat, pose a significant and unacceptable fire risk to campus buildings. Due to the sensitivity of smoke detection systems, they may also activate building fire alarm systems, initiating an emergency evacuation and costly response from emergency personnel and the Fire Department. The California Fire Code, Section 1109.8, Section 2501.17, and Section 8203.2.1.8, establishes the policy for the use of candles and other open flames on campus. Therefore, it is the University's policy to restrict the use of open flame to the following conditions.

Flaming Foods and Beverages

1. Flaming foods or beverages shall be prepared in the immediate vicinity of the table being served. They cannot be carried while burning.
2. The person preparing the food must have a portable fire extinguisher provided in accordance with CFC Standard 10-1.
3. Flammable liquids (such as liquor) shall be dispensed from one ounce or one quart container with a pouring device that limits the flow of liquid to one ounce.
4. The pouring, ladling, or spooning of liquids is restricted to a maximum height of 8 inches above the food. All containers shall be capped to prevent spillage when not in use.

Candles or Open Flame Decorative Lighting

1. **Use for any reason of open-flames and hand-held candles shall be approved by the Building Official, or the State Fire Marshal.** When allowed, hand held candles will not be allowed to pass from one person to another while ignited.
2. All devices shall self-extinguish when tipped over, return to upright position after being tilted to a 45 degree angle, and prevent leakage of more than ¼ of liquid or wax per minute.
3. Flames shall be fully enclosed, or the container shall have side no more than 3/8 inch in diameter. The openings on the top and the distance to the top shall be such that a single layer of tissue paper placed on the tip will not ignite in 10 seconds.
4. Use of open flame device used in conjunction with theatrical performances shall be approved by the Building Official or the State Fire Marshal.
5. When, in the opinion of the CSU San Marcos Building Official, it is essential for public safety in a place of assembly due to the number of people, type of display, or activity, personnel trained in the use of fire extinguishers shall be on duty.