In this new era of outdoor dining and services, Central County Fire Department is committed to ensuring the safety of our business owners, their patrons, and our residents. With several businesses moving their dining as well as services to the sidewalks and streets, using pop-up tents and temporary structures has become the new trend to provide a more comfortable experience for their patrons. As we navigate through these times, we offer a reminder we still must follow safety requirements regarding the temporary usage of covered outdoor structures on our sidewalks and streets. Additional requirements may apply if you provide an enclosed or covered outdoor seating area. Please apply these following safety requirements to continue your business outdoors.

Safety measures:
- Secure your tent(s) to the ground with sandbags or weights to avoid them from flying up and injuring people.
- Provide a minimum 36-inch clearance walkway opening to allow staff and patrons to exit from the tents and temporary structures.
- Ensure tents and temporary structures are not blocking access for those walking or driving by.
- Parking lot/parklet setting – must provide traffic barriers to protect seating areas.
- Tents and temporary structures within parklets are NOT to encroach into roadways.
- Replace or repair any damaged tents immediately.
- No open flames or outdoor cooking without fire department approval.
- Smoking is prohibited at all times when within tents and temporary structures.

Heating devices:
- Propane heating devices are NOT allowed to be used under any roof top covering, this includes sunshades, tents, awnings, plastic coverings, canopies.
- Electrical commercial grade UL listed outdoor heaters are allowed with proper consideration of wire gauge, proper installation and proper protection to avoid injury. Please contact us with any questions prior to installation to avoid delay in use.
- Electrical heavy-duty extension cords must be graded for outdoor use. Recommend protecting connection ports to avoid water disrupting the flow of electricity and causing injury.
- LP-gas (propane) shall not be stored in or within 10 feet of tents and canopies.

Permit requirements:
- Contact your City’s Public Works department for encroachment permit requirements prior to setting up.

If you have any questions, please contact Central County Fire Department at 650.558.7600.