

Fire Marshal Division
Mobile Food Vendor Town Hall
DFM Josh Smith & AFM Tim Megee
November 16, 2020

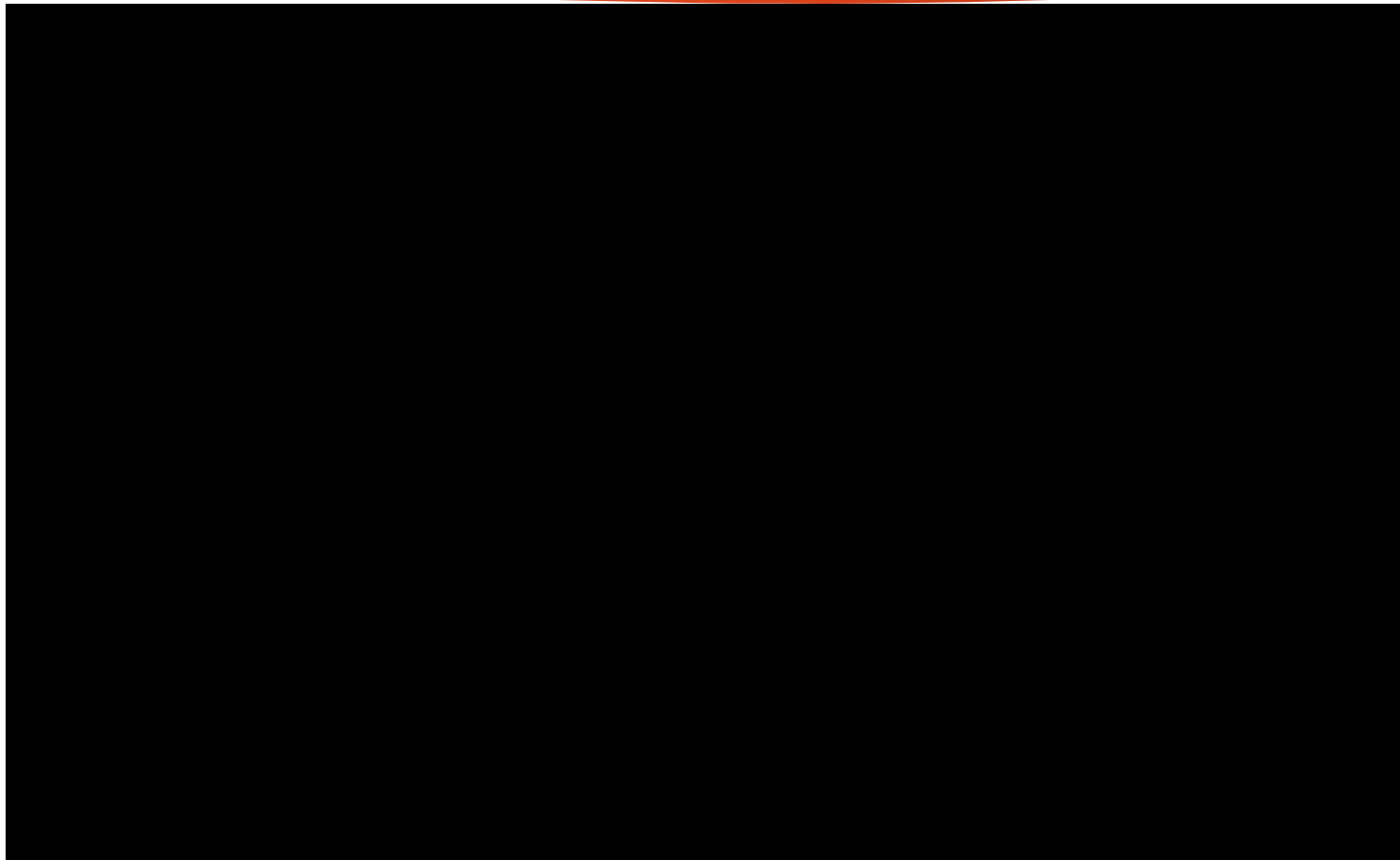


Agenda

- ▶ Mobile Food Vehicle Incidents
- ▶ Mobile Food Vendor Code Requirements
- ▶ Mobile Food Vendor Permit Process
- ▶ Common Issues Found During Permit and Inspection Process
- ▶ Questions

Mobile Food Vendor Incident Philadelphia

https://youtu.be/NGGIdddi_0 Philadelphia Mobile Food Vendor Incident

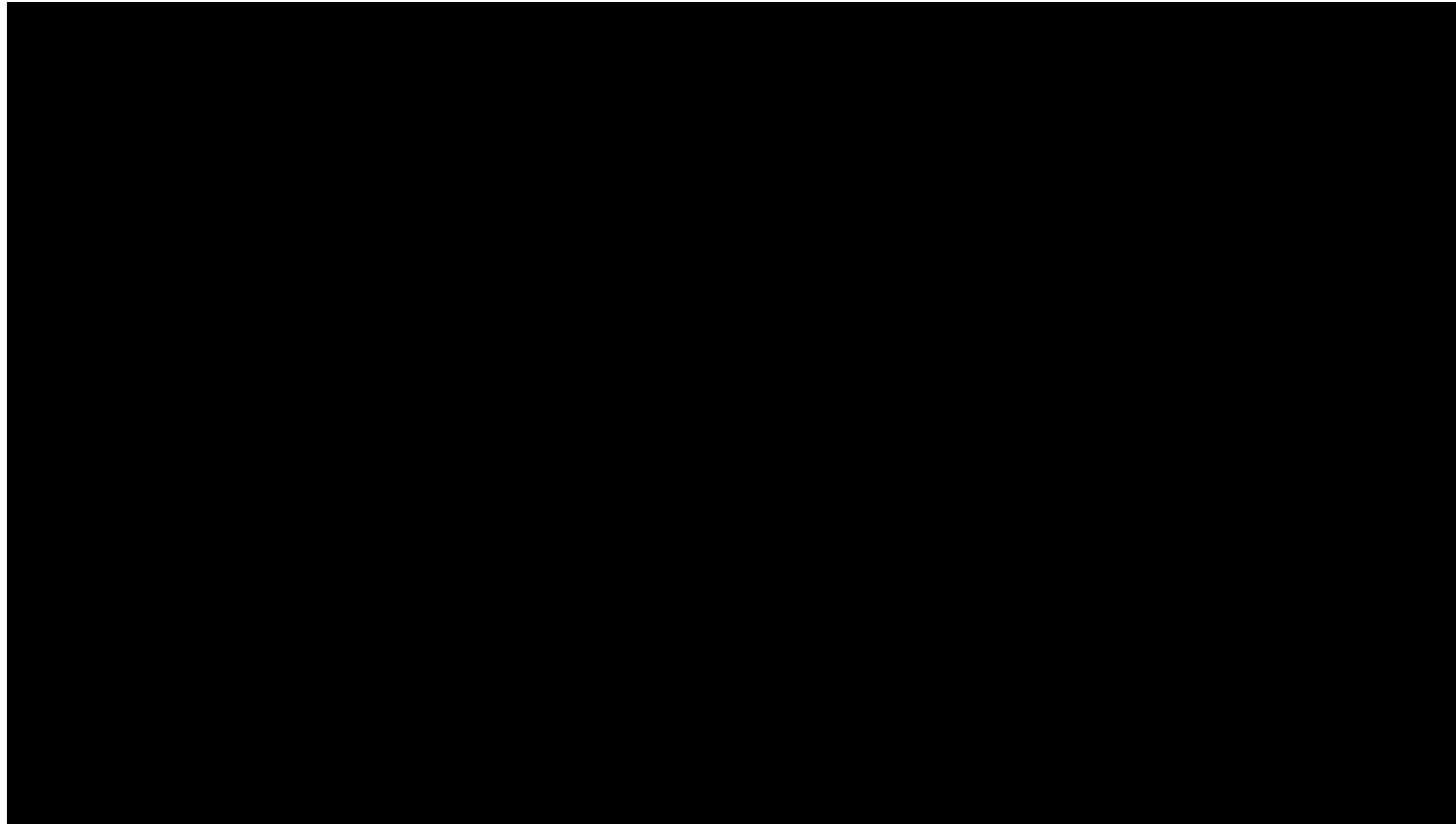


Mobile Food Vendor Incidents Philadelphia

- ▶ Philadelphia Food Truck Explosion
- ▶ Occurred July 1, 2014 two people were killed and many more seriously injured.
- ▶ Caused by an overfilled propane tank causing it to rupture and explode.
- ▶ U – Haul Company paid a \$160 million settlement.

Mobile Food Vendor Incident Charlotte, NC

<https://youtu.be/nf38LOhECfE> Charlotte Mobile Food Vendor Incident

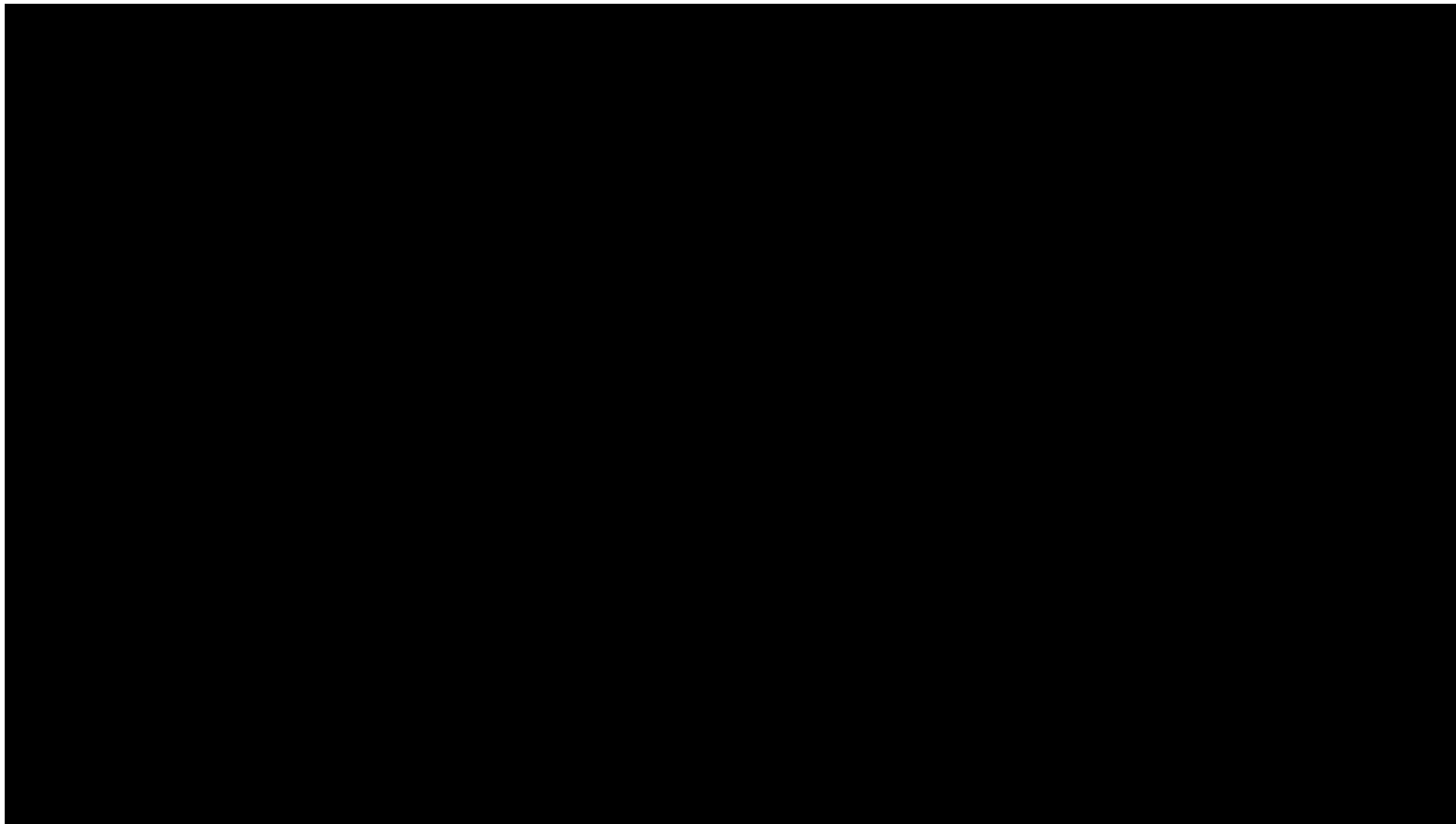


Mobile Food Vendor Incident Charlotte, NC

- ▶ March 14, 2020.
- ▶ Passenger van operating as a food truck.
- ▶ Caused by a fire that started in the cooking area.
- ▶ 1 person injured but was expected to be ok.

Mobile Food Vendor Incident Eugene, OR

<https://youtu.be/4sunP1EWdNU> Eugene, OR Mobile Food Vendor Incident



Mobile Food Vendor Incident Eugene, OR

- ▶ February 24, 2019
- ▶ Parked outside of a brewery.
- ▶ Cause was leaking gas lines leading to the truck's propane tanks.
- ▶ Multiple buildings damaged.
- ▶ No injuries.

Code Requirements (summary)

- ▶ Newly added section to the 2018 International Fire Code.
- ▶ Fire Code was adopted in South Carolina on January 1, 2020.
- ▶ Requires kitchen exhaust hood and fire suppression required for vendors that produce grease laden vapors.
- ▶ Grease laden vapors can come from a flat top, griddle, fryers etc.

Code Requirements (summary)

- ▶ Kitchen hood exhaust needs to be inspected and cleaned if needed every 6 months by a qualified kitchen hood cleaner.
- ▶ Kitchen hood suppression systems needs to be inspected every 6 months by a South Carolina qualified hood suppression vendor.

Code Requirements (summary)

- ▶ All mobile food vendors are required to have a fire extinguisher with a minimum classification rating of 2A:10BC.
- ▶ If the vehicle is equipped with a hood suppression system, a Class K fire extinguisher is also required.
- ▶ Fire extinguishers need to be inspected and tagged annually by a qualified South Carolina fire extinguisher contractor.
- ▶ Propane shut off needs to be in a readily accessible area.

Code Requirements (summary)

- ▶ If vehicle is equipped with propane, all system lines shall be inspected yearly by a qualified vendor.
- ▶ A qualified vendor can be a plumber who is licensed to work on gas in the State of South Carolina. They will need to provide you with a report stating no leaks were found.
- ▶ All vehicles using propane must also be equipped with an LP Gas alarm.

Code Requirements (summary)

- ▶ If vehicle is equipped with a generator, the generator should be downwind if possible.
- ▶ If refueling is conducted on site, a refueling plan must be established.
- ▶ Do not fuel generator while hot and make sure fuel can is safely stored.

Code Requirements (summary)

- ▶ Ensure breaker panel is labeled correctly to indicate what areas each breaker serves.
- ▶ Ensure all electrical cords are in good working order with no exposed wires.
- ▶ Ensure all outlet covers and light switches are in place.

Permitting Process

- ▶ All vendors will need to apply for a Fire Marshal Operational Permit.
- ▶ This will consist of the permit application, safety checklist, and all associated documents.
- ▶ All required documents are listed on the first page of the permit application.

Permitting Process

- ▶ Once all documents are received a permit number is created through the City of Charleston Permit Center.
- ▶ It is then sent to the Fire Marshal Division for review.
- ▶ Fire Marshal Division staff will review the application and ensure the required documents are attached and send comments to the applicant.

Permitting Process Continued

- ▶ If all documents are attached, the application will be approved.
- ▶ Once approved, staff will contact the applicant to pay for their permit. The permit fees are as follows: Level A \$40, Level B \$56.30, and Level C \$72.61.
- ▶ The applicant can call 843-724-3711 to make payment over the phone.

Permitting Process Continued

- ▶ Once payment is made you can contact the Fire Marshal Division to schedule your inspection.
- ▶ If vendor passes inspection a permit sticker will be issued and the vendor will be added to the approved vendor list.
- ▶ Permit Sticker is good for 1 year from the punch date.
- ▶ You cannot work in the City of Charleston if you are not on the approved list .

Issues Found During Permit and Inspection Process

- ▶ The most common issue found during the permitting process is that all documents are not received with the initial application.
- ▶ Your application will be delayed if all items that are applicable to your operation are not received.
- ▶ The full list of required documents is on the first page of the application.

Issues Found During Permit and Inspection Process

- ▶ Ensure all required systems in your unit are maintained as required.
- ▶ The inspection process has gone well and there have been only a few issues.

Questions

- ▶ Where can I operate with my City of Charleston Permit?
 - ▶ Your permit allows you to operate within the municipal boundaries of the City of Charleston. This includes the Peninsula, Daniel Island, and incorporated areas of West Ashley, James Island, Johns Island, and Cainhoy.

Questions

- ▶ How do I know if a location is within the City of Charleston?
- ▶ Recommend utilizing the City of Charleston website to check the address in Mapnet:

<https://gis.charleston-sc.gov/interactive/mapnet/>

Questions

- ▶ Can I operate in other jurisdictions with my City of Charleston Permit?
 - ▶ Our permit is for the City of Charleston.
 - ▶ You will need to check with other jurisdictions to determine their requirements.
- ▶ We do not see a regional or statewide permit being created in the foreseeable future.

Questions

- ▶ Will there be a regional or statewide permit soon?
 - ▶ We do not see a regional or statewide permit being created in the near future.
 - ▶ If a State program is created, the enforcement will likely be passed back to local jurisdictions.

Questions Continued

- ▶ Additional questions or discussion?

Links to Videos

- ▶ https://youtu.be/NGGldddi_0 Philadelphia Mobile Food Vendor Incident
- ▶ <https://youtu.be/nf38LOhECfE> Charlotte Mobile Food Vendor Incident
- ▶ <https://youtu.be/4sunP1EWdNU> Eugene, OR Mobile Food Vendor Incident

Contact Info

Deputy Fire Marshal Josh Smith

(843) 724-5017

smithjo@Charleston-sc.gov

Assistant Fire Marshal Tim Megee

(843) 579-6405

megeet@Charleston-sc.gov