



TRAVIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 5
665 W. FM 1626, Austin, TX 78748
TEL: 512-640-8273
crr@tcesd5.org

NATHAN MENDENHALL
Fire Code Official / Risk Reduction Officer

TO: Travis County ESD 5 Customers

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION BULLETIN 004**
Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles and Food Truck Site Requirements

DATE: October 1, 2025

CREATED BY: Travis County ESD 5 Fire Code Official

Purpose:

The Fire Code Official for Travis County ESD 5 (TCESD5) has created this Information Bulletin to assist food truck owners and food truck site property owners/manager in passing the annual inspection for food truck sites within the District.

Code References:

2021 Fire Code of Travis County Emergency Services District 5 / Manchaca Fire Rescue, published by the ICC (Section 101.1 and 319); Travis County ESD 5 Ordinances 2025-08-14-01; 2025-08-14-02; 2025-09-11-01

Scope:

The following are fire code requirements for all existing and new Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle/Food Truck sites within the District:

1. Food trucks operating within the District **MUST** have a current, non-expired permit issued by Austin Public Health after passing a health and county fire marshal inspection (Section 319.2). Contact Austin Public Health by visiting:
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/mobile-food-vendors>
2. All food trucks shall be parked a minimum of 10 feet from any structure or other food trucks. The food truck must also be a minimum of 10 feet from any fuel container or fuel tank that is not attached to the food truck. **Exception: the food truck can be located less than 10 feet from a detached open pavilion as long as the open pavilion is open on three (3) sides with no obstructions to egress from any of the three open sides, and the pavilion cannot be attached to the food truck in any manner (Section 319.3(1)).**

3. Food trucks shall be located a minimum of 15 feet away from any fire hydrant and no further than 400 feet away from the nearest fire hydrant or fire protection water supply available for fire suppression.
4. Food trucks shall be located within 150 feet of a fire apparatus access road (aka fire lane).
5. Food trucks shall be a minimum of 12 feet away from any generator that is not mounted to the food truck.
6. Food trucks shall be located a minimum of 15 feet away from and fire department connection (FDC).
7. The means of egress of a food truck shall not be obstructed, and all combustible items not inside the food truck shall be located a minimum of 10 feet away from the means of egress of the food truck.
8. An open pavilion, as described under item 2, requires a construction permit if it exceeds 400 sq. ft.
9. If a food truck uses LPG or CNG systems, the systems shall be wholly contained within the food truck. The LPG or CNG tanks are prohibited from being moved from the location in the food truck where they were inspected at the time of the county fire inspection described in item 1.
10. Electrical equipment, wiring, and systems at food truck sites and the food truck itself shall comply with Section 603 and NFPA 70: The National Electric Code (Section 391.1.1).

Summary:

This Information Bulletin is for informational purposes only.

Prepared by: Nathan Mendenhall, Risk Reduction Officer/TCESD 5 Fire Code Official