SCOPE:

The intent of this standard is to list sections of the 2013 California Fire Code pertaining to Portable Outdoor Gas-Fired Heating Appliances and put them into accessible language. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (650) 726-5213

Requirements:

1. **Outdoor gas-fired heaters cannot be stored or used on balconies, inside tents or canopies or inside buildings.**
   Units may be stored inside buildings as long as they are not connected to a gas container. The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:
   - Inside of any occupancy when connected to the fuel gas container.
   - Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.
   - On exterior balconies. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.1)

2. **Units must be located at least 5 feet from buildings.**
   Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located at least 5 feet from buildings. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.2)

3. **Units shall not be located beneath or closer than 5 feet of combustible decorations, overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible materials.**
   Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.3)

4. **Units shall not be located within 5 feet of an exit or exit path.**
   Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.1.4)

5. **All units must be listed and approved with space for a fuel container.**
Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.1)

6. **Units must be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer’s instructions.**
   Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with manufacturer instructions. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.2)

7. **Units must have a tip over safety switch that shuts off the flow of gas if the unit is tipped more than 15 degrees from the standing position.**
   Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees from the vertical. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.3)

8. **The heating element of the units must have a guard to prevent contact with the heat source.**
   The heating element or combustion chamber of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons or material. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.2.4)

9. **Gas containers shall be approved.**
   Only approved DOTn or ASME gas containers shall be used. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.1)

10. **Gas containers in heating devices shall not be changed in a location where the public is present.**
    Replacement of fuel gas containers in portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be conducted while the public is present. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.2)

11. **Gas containers cannot exceed 20 pounds in capacity.**
    The maximum individual capacity of gas containers used in connection with portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not exceed 20 pounds. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.3)

12. **Gas containers cannot be stored inside buildings.**
    Gas containers shall not be stored inside of buildings. (California Fire Code 603.4.2.3.4)

13. **LP-gas containers should be securely stored to protect against tampering.**
    Additional vehicle impact protection may be required by the Fire District. LP-gas containers shall be stored within a suitable enclosure or otherwise protected against tampering. Vehicular protection shall be provided as required by the fire code official. (California Fire Code 6109.13)