



Get the Facts:

Chafing Fuel Management and Disposal

Introduction

- Chafing fuel (e.g., Sterno™) and other food heating device use is permitted in specific public spaces (i.e., public assembly space, meeting and conference rooms) only. Use in private office spaces, amphitheaters, sleeping areas and certain other non-public areas is not permitted. All Emory Dining and external vendors (catering) must comply with this protocol.

Management of Chafing Fuel During Use

- All heating devices must be attended by a member of the catering staff or on-site event staff who has been trained in the proper use. The trained attendee must have access to a type “ABC” portable fire extinguisher and must have completed Fire Safety Training. Water should never be used to extinguish a fire involving chafing fuel, as using water may spread the fire.
- Heating devices shall be placed on non-combustible mats, ceramic or metal trays extending at least eight inches beyond the chafing fuel container in each direction, to prevent accidental contact with any combustible materials. The heating devices shall be placed under the appropriate devices before lighting.
- Heating devices may only be ignited by means of a butane lighter or a long-handled match. Once ignited, the device shall not be moved until extinguished. Only cloth table covers shall be used; paper or plastic table coverings are not permitted.
- Combustible materials such as plates, napkins, plastic utensils, cups or similar products must be separated by a minimum of two feet on each side from the flame source along with any table décor or floral arrangements. Flame resistant table décor preferred, when possible.
- Once a food tray is empty or the heating device is no longer needed the flame must be immediately extinguished with approved tool(s). To prevent any gel spill, seal opening with the original cap once cool. For liquids with a wick, extinguish wick and return the plastic seal over wick to prevent any potential burns. When the event is over, place the capped device on a non-combustible material and allow at least 30-min for further cooling.

Disposing of Unwanted Chafing Fuel

- **Emory Dining** - Place cooled and capped chafing fuel in containers provided by Environmental Health and Safety. Please contact EHSO by visiting www.ehso.emory.edu and selecting “Waste Collection” to request removal.
- **External Vendors (Catering)** - Place cooled and capped chafing fuel in an appropriate non-combustible container and remove from the campus.