



City of  
**Santa  
Monica**

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE  
SECTION 3.36.290  
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

November 18, 2021

- I. **Scope.** These administrative regulations (“Regulations”) are established pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (“SMMC”) Section 3.36.290.
- II. **Definitions.** For purposes of these Regulations, these terms have the following meanings:
  - A. “Enforcement Officer” means a City Police Officer, a City Code Compliance Officer or Code Enforcement Officer, a City Building Inspector, a City Combination Building Inspector, a City Parking Enforcement Officer, a City Public Works Inspector, a City Fire Inspector, a City Office of Sustainability and the Environment Inspector, a City License Inspector, a City Animal Control Officer, a City Public Services Officer, a City Lead Public Services Officer, a City Public Services Officer Supervisor, a City Public Services Administrator, a Pier and Harbor Services Officer, a Lead Pier and Harbor Services Officer, a City Pier and Harbor Services Supervisor, or any other authorized agent or employee of the City whose duty is to assure Code compliance. See SMMC Section 1.09.020.
  - B. “Fuel” means any gaseous, liquid, or solid material, including, but not limited to: propane, butane, any other liquid gas, kerosene, sterno, charcoal, or wood, used to generate an open flame whether for heating, lighting cooking, or any other purpose.
  - C. “Fuel tank” means any tank, container, or receptacle of any kind in which the fuel is held.
  - D. “Person” means any natural person, joint venture, joint stock company, partnership, association, club, company, corporation, business trust, or organization of any kind.
  - E. “Pier” means the Santa Monica Pier, consisting of both the Newcomb Pier and the Municipal Pier, protruding from the Santa Monica State Beach at the southwesterly terminus of Colorado Avenue, extending for approximately 2,135 feet into the Santa Monica Bay. See SMMC Section 4.44.010.
  - F. “Vehicle” means a device any an automobile or truck of any kind by which any person or property may be propelled, moved, or drawn upon a highway, excepting a device moved exclusively by human power or electric power.
- III. **Prohibition on Use of Fuel in and Around the Pier Without a Permit**
  - A. **Prohibition on Use of Fuel in and Around the Pier.** No person shall use any fuel on the Pier or within 25 feet of the Pier for any purpose involving the fuel’s combustion, including, but not limited to, heating, lighting, or cooking, without first obtaining a permit from the Fire Marshal.

**B. Fire Permit.**

1. A person seeking a permit for use of fuel on or within 25 feet of the Pier may apply for an annual operating or a special event permit from the Santa Monica Fire Department.
2. Any person with an annual operating or a special event permit shall provide a copy of the permit to an enforcement officer upon request.
3. Any person with an annual operating or a special event permit shall comply with either Santa Monica Fire Department's Fire Prevention Policy Number 1-9 on Portable Propane Heaters or the Festival and Special Event General Requirements and Guidelines.

**C. Exemption for Authorized Vehicles.** The prohibition on use of fuel set forth in Section 3.36.290 and these Regulations shall not apply to the use of gasoline or an alternative fuel by a vehicle authorized to be on the Pier or within 25 feet of the Pier.

**IV. Impoundment of Unpermitted Fuel.** The following procedures apply to impoundment of fuel and the fuel tank by an enforcement officer for violation of SMMC Section 3.36.290 and these Regulations, unless such a violation is charged as an infraction or a misdemeanor.

- A. Enforcement.** Any enforcement officer is authorized to impound fuel, along with the fuel tank, that is utilized by a person who has not obtained a fire permit in violation of SMMC Section 3.36.290 and these Regulations.
- B. Procedure for Impoundment.** At the time of impoundment, the enforcement officer shall provide to the person utilizing the unpermitted fuel a receipt that includes the date and time the fuel and the fuel tank were impounded and a complete description of such impounded materials. The receipt shall also include instructions on how to reclaim impounded materials and notify the person that failure either to reclaim the materials during the 90-day holding period or timely appeal the impoundment may result in forfeiture of the impounded items to the City. If the enforcement officer determines, at the time of impoundment, that, due to the condition or integrity of the fuel or fuel tank, that the fuel or fuel tank cannot be safely stored, the enforcement officer shall include such a determination on the receipt.
- C. City Retention of Impounded Materials.** Impounded fuel or fuel tanks shall be held by the City for a period of at least 90 days. Unless a person claiming ownership has timely appealed (as described in Section IV.F.) or reclaimed any impounded item pursuant to Section IV.E., the item impounded will be forfeited to the City after the expiration of the 90-day holding period.

- D. **Disposal of Unsafe Fuel or Fuel Tanks.** Notwithstanding Section IV.C, the City may immediately dispose of impounded fuel and fuel tanks if an enforcement officer has determined, whether at or subsequent to the time of impoundment, that the item impounded cannot be safely stored due to its condition or integrity. If such a determination is made subsequent to the time of impoundment, the enforcement officer shall document the basis for the determination that the fuel or fuel tanks cannot be safely stored. This documentation shall be maintained by the Santa Monica Fire Department for at least 90 days from the date the fuel and fuel tank were impounded.
- E. **Reclaiming Impounded Materials.** Prior to the expiration of the 90-day holding period described in Section IV.C., or before any appeal related to impoundment becomes final, any person claiming ownership of the fuel and fuel tank that has been impounded may reclaim such items upon payment of impound fees and providing proper proof of ownership. Owners may recover impounded the items without showing a fire permit valid as of the date of the impoundment, but may remain subject to citation for possession and use of a fuel without a permit in violation of SMMC Section 3.36.290. Owners of impounded fuel and fuel tanks should contact the Santa Monica Fire Department at 310-459-8915 to reclaim their property.
- F. **Appeals Related to Impoundment.** Any person claiming ownership of any item impounded under SMMC Section 3.36.290 and these Regulations may contest the impoundment by filing a timely appeal pursuant to SMMC Chapter 1.09. Impounded items that are the subject of a timely appeal shall be held by the City until the later of (1) the expiration of the 90-day holding period described in Section IV.C. or (2) the appeal, including any judicial review, becoming final. Thereafter, provided that the impoundment is upheld on appeal, the impounded items will be forfeited to the City.
- G. **Items Forfeited to the City.** After impounded fuels and fuel tanks have been forfeited to the City, the City may dispose of such items in its sole discretion.
- H. **Compliance with Hazardous Material Control Laws.** The City's transportation, handling, storage, and disposal of fuel or fuel tanks shall follow hazardous material control laws set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 22 and Code of Federal Regulation, Title 40 and Title 49 and any other application law or regulation.