



CITY OF ABILENE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



Mobile Food Vendor

250 Grape St. Abilene, TX 79601 (325) 676-6434 Fax: (325) 676-6673 afdprev@abilenetx.gov

March 1st, 2022

Dear Business Owner,

With the adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code by the Abilene Fire Department and the City of Abilene, there is now a requirement for Mobile Food Vendors (i.e. Food Trucks) whose operation uses appliances that produce smoke or grease-laden vapors to receive an operational permit issued by the Abilene Fire Marshal's Office. This operational permit was instituted to ensure public safety in response to the increase in the popularity and number of mobile food vendors within our communities. There are unique fire and life safety concerns that mobile food service vehicles present. The inspection and permitting process is an effort to address some of those concerns.

All mobile food preparation vehicles whose operation uses appliances that produce smoke or grease-laden vapors require an operational permit annually. However, if a vendor's mobile food preparation vehicle does not have these types of appliances, an operational permit is not required. To obtain a Mobile Food Vendor Permit, the vendor must call the Abilene Fire Marshal's Office at 325-676-6434 and set up an inspection appointment. On the date of your inspection, please bring your mobile food vehicle to the location designated when setting up your inspection.

*Please note that if your mobile food vehicle does not currently have a required automatic fire extinguishing system installed, this is a new requirement included in the 2021 International Fire Code. All mobile food vendors will be given a 36 month grace period to allow for the installation of the extinguishing system. The 36 month time frame began effectively February 26th, 2022, and will expire on February 26th, 2025, when all vendors who require an operational permit must have an extinguishing system in place.

A separate construction permit and submittal process is required for the installation of this extinguishing system. This permit is applied for through the Abilene Fire Marshal's Office. A licensed fire suppression contractor shall submit application for the installation of the fire suppression system fire review and approval. Inspections and testing are required as part of this process.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Williams
Fire Marshal
Abilene Fire Department