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Fire Prevention Bureau – Sterno use Policy

I. Scope

This policy applies to all persons within the Highlands community and everyone else who uses Sterno or similar products within the Borough of Highlands.

II. Policy

It is preferred that electrical food warming devices are used instead of Sterno; particularly in all areas that are not protected by fire sprinkler systems. If the use of electrical devices is not feasible and Sterno use is the only alternative, then the following precautions shall apply.

III. Precautions

Sterno is acceptable only if the following procedures are followed:

Safety Procedures:

- The use of Sterno is limited to buffet heating and as a chafing fuel for heating chafing dishes. It is prohibited in any building that is on a Fire Watch.
- Users are responsible for adherence to this Policy during their respective event; and shall ensure that the Sterno use is supervised by an adult at all times.
- The user and staff shall be aware of the location of the nearest manual fire alarm pull station (inside) and know how to activate the fire alarm in the event of a fire emergency.
- Tables and other furniture with Sterno shall have coverings that are flame resistant or all chafing racks and beverage urns using Sterno shall be placed on non-combustible mats, ceramic or metal trays extending several inches beyond the Sterno containers in each direction, to prevent accidental contact with any combustible decorative materials (8" is recommended).
- Flammable items such as napkins, paper and plastic cups and plastic table wares and similar products and decorations should be separated a minimum of three feet from Sterno; it is strongly recommended that flammable items be placed on a table separate from the Sterno.
- Partially used Sterno shall not be returned to storage until it is completely cooled down and safe for storage.
- The use of Sterno but may be subject to prohibition should the use and set up of the room increase concerns for the safety of the occupants.
- All safety tips provided by the manufacturer of Sterno shall be strictly followed whenever Sterno is used. A copy of the SAFETY TIPS is in the Appendix.

IV. In Case of Smoke and/or Fire

If smoke and/or fire should occur, then pull the fire alarm, exit the building, and immediately notify 911 to report the incident. The New Jersey Fire Code requires that fires be reported, including extinguished fires

Sterno Safety Tips

- Appendix: Sterno® Brand Safety Tips
 - Always use CAUTION when handling OPEN FLAME products
 - Always use a blunt object, such as a spoon, to pry off the lid
 - Always cup hand over lid when opening can
 - Always remove excess gel from lid if it is being used as a regulator
 - Always wash fuel residue from hands
 - Always place the can underneath the chafing dish or beverage urn before lighting
 - Always make sure cans are placed securely in equipment
 - Always use a long handled match or butane lighter to light cans
 - Always use a snuffer paddle, regulator or saucer to extinguish flame
 - Always wait until can is cool before touching
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- Never use a sharp knife to pry off lid
 - Never use a lit can to light another can
 - Never carry lit cans
 - Never carry chafing dishes or beverage urns with lit cans
 - Never touch cans while still hot
 - Never allow loose clothing, napkins or tablecloths near flame
 - Never allow hair to fall near flame
 - Never use hands to extinguish flame
 - Never blow out flame of Sterno® Brand Gel or Hot Spot® to extinguish