

**Special Event After-Action Report  
Food Truck Festival  
June 10, 2012**

**Organizer: May Davis**

**Permit Requirements**

Please see the attached event permit, site plan, event conditions and requirements for mobile food facilities issued to May Davis on 5/11/12.

I contacted Mrs. Davis the week of May 29, 2012 to advise her that I would be the inspector for the event. I asked if she had given a copy of the regulations out to all the vendors and if she had any questions. She stated that she had given the requirements to all vendors and had no additional questions.

**Event**

On Sunday, June 10, 2012 I met with May Davis to inspect the Riverside Food Truck Festival located at 3750 Market. We started the inspection in the VIP tent. The size of the tent required 3-10 foot exit openings and an occupancy sign to be posted. I asked her to post the sign at the entrance. She said that it would be better on the back panels. The sign could be seen there so I agreed. I asked that she open 2 more panels to comply with the 3 required exits. She said that the panels will slide easy and she would do it later. I had her do it so I could confirm the size of the openings.

The Beer Garden area was gated and had only one way in and out. I asked her for the dimensions and calculated that this area could have a maximum occupancy load of 848 persons. I asked that she provide 2-8 foot openings. I helped her move one of the fence panels to achieve this.

I told her that I was going to start my inspection on the Food Trucks and that she could accompany me or continue with her setup. I told her that I would let her know if there was a problem. She opted to continue the set up.

**Inspection**

The first truck I inspected had a fryer but did not have a K extinguisher. I asked if they received the requirement handout. They said that the foundation rented the dry chemical extinguisher to them for \$10 and said it was a K extinguisher.

The second truck had a broken release latch on the fryer lid. The lid was obstructing the spray pattern of the hood extinguishing system so I had him secure it up to ensure coverage.

The 6<sup>th</sup> truck was the same scenario as truck number 1.

The 8<sup>th</sup> truck had no K or dry chemical extinguisher and their system had not been serviced for 13 months.

The 12<sup>th</sup> truck had a dry chemical extinguisher but no K extinguisher. They stated that the fryer was not working properly and would not be using it anyway.

The 14<sup>th</sup> truck had a system, but no K extinguisher. They had only a dry chemical.

The 18<sup>th</sup> truck had no K extinguisher and their system had not been serviced for 14 months.

The 20<sup>th</sup> truck was the same as 1 & 6 above.

The 26<sup>th</sup> truck was allowed to fry because they had a K extinguisher, even though their system was not up to date on the service.

### **Corrective Measures**

I went to find Mrs. Davis to let her know what trucks were out of compliance and find out who told the trucks operators that the fire extinguishers they had rented were K extinguishers. I came upon Mr. Davis and asked if he would find Mrs. Davis so I could go over some issues with her. He asked what they were and got very upset when I told him. He was disrespectful and angry. He yelled that "This is why no one comes to Riverside! The City council needs to get involved!" He did not seem to understand why the trucks could not use the extinguishers they provided. I explained that they are not designed for extinguishing a fire in a deep fryer. At this time he did acknowledge I was only doing my job. I tried to explain that the Fire Codes are International Standards for safety, and not just for the City of Riverside. Mrs. Davis came up and Mr. Davis started to get upset again. Both of them stated that Chief Earley allowed the trucks to share or use dry chemical fire extinguishers at last year's event. Mr. Davis stated that he was calling Chief Earley and walked away.

I reminded Mrs. Davis about the handouts and pointed out the requirements on the permit we provided to her. She stated that she rented the fire extinguishers from the party place she contracted for the event and that "they should have known what she wanted" because they set up for the fire department all the time. When I asked her what she meant she stated that "I should know, at fire scenes". When Mr. Davis returned he was angry and verbally abusive. He yelled at me again as to "where he was going to obtain K extinguishers on a Sunday!" I suggested that he call an extinguisher company out of the yellow pages. Mr. and Mrs. Davis questioned me again as to why the trucks could not share the K extinguishers. I again tried to explain that if there was a fire, by the time the vendor got an extinguisher from another truck, their truck would be fully involved and we don't want people going back into an unsafe situation. Mrs. Davis then called Chief Earley.

I went back to the trucks to let the operators know that as soon as I received direction from the Fire Marshal I would let them know if they would be able to use their fryers. As I was leaving one of the trucks, a woman came in and told them "it was ok to cook". I asked her who gave that order and she handed me Mr. Davis card and stated that "he said to start frying". I then contacted the Fire Marshal.

The following is what occurred to allow the Food Trucks to use their fryers. My inspection determined that 8 trucks out of 32 had violations. This suggests that most of the vendors read the handouts and knew what was required.

Upon my return to the beer garden area, I found that the fence panels had been put back into place eliminating the required exits.

**Resolution**

Based on the direction of the Fire Marshal:

**5 Trucks were allowed to fry with dry chemical extinguishers only – out of compliance with code.**

**1 Truck obtained a K extinguisher themselves – in compliance.**

**2 Trucks opted not to use their fryers – in compliance.**

I recommend that we require the coordinator of future events to show proof that a licensed C-16 company will be available upon request, on the day of the event, before a permit is issued. This may help keep tempers down and inspectors from verbal abuse.

[REDACTED]  
City of Riverside Fire Department

[REDACTED]  
Prevention Division

(951) [REDACTED]

(951) [REDACTED]