

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE AND STORAGE OF CHAFING FUEL (i.e. STERNO)

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use and storage of chafing fuel at property owned by the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

II. BACKGROUND

Chafing fuel, which is commonly referred to as Sterno, is a jellied denatured alcohol and is routinely used under chafing dishes to keep food warm during events. If used improperly, chafing fuel can lead to fires and/or personal injuries.

III. GUIDANCE FOR CHAFING FUEL USE

1. Follow the fuel manufacturer's instructions for set up.
2. Place the fuel securely underneath the chafing dish or beverage urn before lighting.
3. Keep the area around the chafing dish and the fuel free from combustible materials, including loose clothing, tablecloths, plates, napkins, etc.
4. Use a butane lighter to light the fuel can.
5. Use caution when around open flames. Do not carry or move lit cans or dishes with lit cans.
6. Do not use a lit can to ignite additional cans.
7. Do not leave lit chafing fuel unattended.
8. To extinguish the flame, use a snuffer paddle or saucer.
9. Wait until the can is cool before replacing.

IV. GUIDANCE FOR CHAFING FUEL STORAGE

1. Unused chafing fuel must be stored in a cool and dry location away from flammables and heat sources.
2. All chafing fuel cans must be stored covered with the manufacturer's provided lid.
3. Up to twelve 7.4 oz chafing fuel containers can be stored per floor. Additional chafing fuel must be stored in a flammable storage cabinet.

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