



FDNY Fireguard

Food Trucks: A Transient Hazard



Relevance

- Gourmet food service trucks are a popular choice over the traditional food service truck (A.K.A. Roach Coach)
- Popularity increasing since 2008
- Located through out NYC



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Outlook

- 3,100 Permits issued By NYC DOHMH-2012
- Black market exists for permits
- Numbers expected to increase



Food trucks in Central Park



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Historical

- Not your traditional hot dog cart
- Legal to have two 20lb propane cylinders



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Food Truck Design

Every Shape and Size



Note: Large screen TV

Trucks can be custom built for specific purpose
or
Trucks can be converted delivery trucks



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Food Preparation



- Propane or electricity may be present to heat grills, fryers and operate refrigerators.
- Multiple gasoline powered generators may be present if Vendor can not obtain legal permit for propane.



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Back view

Trucks are equipped with:

propane cylinder

gasoline generator



A rear end accident could be very dangerous?



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Generators



Three 4500
watt
gasoline
powered
generators



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Modifications

powered hood vent

large air vents



air conditioner

gas generator

3 Food trucks located near World Financial Center



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Hazards

Hazards when operating at a fire involving a food truck include: (list is not complete)

- Explosion-presence of multiple propane cylinders
- Shock -from high voltage electricity
- Increased fire load-portable gasoline containers
- Burn- hot fryer oil and grills
- Bio-Hazard-from questionable sanitary conditions
- Hazmat-compressed gases



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Case Study: 1

- SoHo, NYC
- April 11, 2011
- West Side Highway
- Car accident
- Propane tank explodes
- 2 workers burned



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Case Study: 2

- Toronto, Canada 8/23/12
- Canadian National Exhibition
- Propane explosion destroys food truck



- \$30,000 in damage

- Blast heard 2 kilometers away



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Terrorism Implications

Access

- Located through out NYC
- High profile locations
- High pedestrian traffic areas
- High-rise office buildings



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Terrorism Implications

Explosive



- Large quantities of
 - propane
 - gasoline
- Easily concealed
- Close proximity to
 - crowds
 - sidewalks



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Terrorism Implications

Surveillance

- According to DHS document a food cart can be used as an excellent surveillance platform due to their access and long duration stays



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Recommendations

- If operating at a response to a food truck
 - Maintain situational awareness
 - Preserve a safety zones
 - Stretch a precautionary hose line
 - Expect large quantities of flammables
 - Call for hazmat



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