

## Appendix C

### Guidelines for Use of Solid Alcohol (Sterno) Fuels to Warm Food

- Solid alcohol (Sterno) heating of food is permitted provided that the following precautions are taken to prevent ignition of combustible material and ensures the safety of occupants.
- Portable open-flame Sterno devices fueled by flammable or combustible gases or liquids shall be enclosed or installed in such a manner as to prevent the flame from contacting combustible material.
- Sterno fuel use shall be attended at all times by a member of the catering staff or an event organizer who has been trained in Sterno use and fire safety.
- A 10 pound ABC dry chemical extinguisher shall be available within thirty (30) feet of the serving table or tables.
- Use of secondary containers for Sterno, i.e. fuel holders with cover, is mandatory. Proper tools must be available for the smothering of the flame if needed, i.e. snuffer paddle.
- All chafing racks and beverage urns using Sterno shall be placed on non-combustible mats, ceramic or metal trays extending at least eight inches beyond the Sterno container in each direction, to prevent accidental contact with any combustible materials.
- Sterno shall be placed under food or beverage tray before lighting. Sterno shall only be lit by means of a butane lighter or long handled match. Chafing racks or beverage urns shall not be moved while Sterno are lit.
- Only table decorations that are flame resistant shall be used. Paper or plastic table coverings are not permitted. Combustible material such as plates, napkins, plastic utensils, cups and similar products shall be separated by a minimum of three feet from Sterno.
- Sterno must be immediately extinguished when the food tray is empty or no longer used. When the event is over, all Sterno must be extinguished, immediately capped and removed from facility.
- If serving flaming foods or beverages it shall be done in a safe manner and shall not create high flames. The pouring, ladling, or spooning of liquids is restricted to a maximum height of 8 inches above the receiving receptacle. Flaming foods and beverages shall be prepared only in the immediate vicinity of the table being serviced. They shall not be transported or carried while burning. The person preparing the flaming foods or beverages shall have a wet cloth towel immediately available for use in smothering the flames in the event of an emergency.