



Employee Safety While Roasting Chile

When preparing to perform green chile roasting, you should consider both the customers' and employees' safety. This includes not only setting up safe roasting areas, but also having safety equipment readily available. In addition, the employees should be trained to perform the work in a safe manner and to keep the area clean and well organized.

Things to consider are:

- **Maintain at least 20 feet clearance from buildings and parking areas.**
- **Maintain at least 5 feet clearance around the roaster itself.**
- **Maintain at least 5 feet clearance between the roaster and the LPG tank.**
- **Assure that the LPG tank is set on firm ground and, if at all possible, provide barriers around it to prevent the tank from being struck by vehicles.**
- **“No Smoking” signs should be posted on the LPG tank.**
- **A fire extinguisher should be readily available at the roasting area and the employees should be trained to use it.**
- **First aid kits should be provided and kept adequately supplied.**
- **The employees should be trained to properly connect the LPG tank to the roaster and in procedures for turning it off in the event of an emergency.**
- **The work and sales areas should be free of potholes, ruts, or other exposures that may cause customers or employees to slip or trip.**
- **The work area should be constantly cleaned of spills and debris.**
- **Waste containers should be provided in the work area.**
- **Empty bags should be stored in a safe manner and away from the roaster.**
- **Employees should be trained to safely lift and load the bagged chile into the roaster.**
- **Employees should be provided with hand and wrist protectors for removing chile after roasting.**
- **Employees should not wear nylon or other synthetic clothing while performing their duties, as these may melt when exposed to heat.**
- **Employees should have adequate amounts of water and disposable cups.**
- **If possible, shade should be provided for your employees while not serving customers.**
- **If forklifts or pallet jacks are utilized to move product, assure that the employees are trained and certified to operate them safely.**
- **Forklifts should be parked in a safe manner with the keys removed with the forks set on the ground.**
- **Customers should be requested to keep a safe distance from the roasters.**