



CHARITABLE FEEDERS MINIMUM SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Charitable feeding shall mean the provision of food to individuals without charge, payment, or other compensation to benefit those in need at an outdoor location not owned, leased or controlled by the individual organization providing food.

Charitable feeding of five (5) or more individuals in one instance shall be conducted in accordance with section 13-13. There are no regulations or permit required for charitable feeding of four (4) individuals or fewer. Charitable feeding activities are not considered a food establishment and do not require a permit under this chapter.

Sec. 13-13. – Charitable feeding.

- (a) No permit is required and no regulations apply to charitable feeding of four (4) individuals or fewer.
- (b) Except as set out in subsection (d), no permit is required for giving away whole, uncut fresh fruits or vegetables or pre-packaged, non-potentially hazardous foods such as canned goods, granola bars, bottled water, non-refrigerated fruit drinks, bagged potato chips, popcorn, pre-packaged snack cakes and candy bars.
- (c) If there is any handling of food, other than packaged food, any person engaged in charitable feeding activities to five (5) or more individuals in one instance shall comply with the following:
 - (1) Either a certified food handler or certified food manager must be present when food is prepared, or onsite while food is distributed if food will be prepared onsite. Food manager or food handler certification shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in article VI of this chapter, except that no city certification fees for food managers or food handlers shall be required; and
 - (2) The department shall be notified within twenty-four (24) hours after charitable feeding activities with the name of the person or organization providing the charitable feeding activities, and the location and date and time of feeding.
- (d) Charitable feeding of five (5) or more individuals in one instance within the following designated parks may be conducted only by following the standard reservation process including the payment of all required reservation fees: River Walk, Travis Park, Main Plaza, Alamo Plaza, Milam Park, Madison Square Park and Hemisfair Park.

- (e) Any person engaged in charitable feeding activities shall remove all undistributed food from the feeding site upon conclusion of the charitable feeding activities and dispose of all trash, debris, and waste water generated during feeding.
- (f) The department shall post minimum safety requirements for safe food handling and preparation on the department's website as guidance for any charitable feeding activity. The director may condemn and forbid the distribution, or cause to be removed or destroyed, any food or drink which is unwholesome or deleterious according to the procedure outlined in this chapter.
- (g) Charitable feeding activities may not be conducted on streets where a traffic hazard is created or in violation of other rules and regulations regarding public streets and the use of right-of-way.
- (h) This section does not apply to a special event as set out within subsection [13-27\(f\)](#).

Sanitation Requirements

- All foods served must be from an approved source and/or licensed food facility or prepared on-site at the charitable feeders serving location.
- Each charitable feeding location preparing or serving food, other than drinks, shall have the following items present during serving:
 - Must maintain perishable foods at temperatures of 41°F or less or 135°F or greater
 - Ice that is consumed or that contacts food shall be made from potable water and be protected from contamination
 - Equipment
 - Must be capable of maintaining perishable foods at temperatures of 41°F or less or 135°F or greater
 - Must protect food from contamination by consumers and other contamination sources. Where necessary to prevent contamination, effective shields for such equipment shall be provided.
 - Must provide three (3) plastic or metal containers to wash, rinse and sanitize utensils used on-site which open handling of foods is taking place.
 - A charitable feeder may only use single-service article for use by the consumer.
 - A container of potable water if running water is not available.
 - Packaged food may not be stored in direct contact with ice or water if the food is subject to the entry of water because of the nature of its packaging, wrapping, or container or its positioning in the ice or water.
 - All waste water and sewage generated shall be disposed of through an approved sanitary sewage system.
 - Trash and debris generated during the feeding event must be picked up from the feeding event premises.

- A hand washing station with running water is required. This shall consist of a clean water container with a spigot, filled with potable water, and catch basin to hold the wastewater until properly disposed.
- A floor may be concrete, machine-laid asphalt, dirt or gravel if it is covered with mats, removable platforms, duckboards, or other suitable materials approved by the regulatory authority that are effectively treated to control dust and mud.

Ceilings shall be made of wood, canvas or other materials that protect the interior of the establishment from the weather, windblown dust, birds and debris.

For more information please visit: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/FoodLicensing/Mobile.aspx> or call (210) 207-0135.

To notify San Antonio Metropolitan Health District of a feeding event please email: samhd@sanantonio.gov with the: Name of your Organization, Responsible Person in-charge, date and time of the event, and location of the event.