



SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE

Fire Marshal's Office

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Use of Barbecue Grills on Apartment & Condominium Balconies



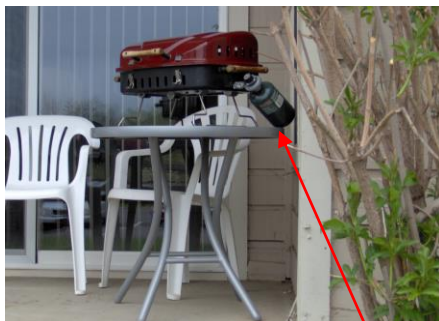
Each year, thousands of costly and deadly fires occur in apartments and condominiums due to the use of barbecue grills on balconies. These fires often result from the improper disposal of charcoal briquettes, the malfunction of propane cylinders and hoses, and allowing flames to get too close to the building. These fires can spread undetected and threaten the lives and homes of everyone in these multi-family structures.



All jurisdictions served by South Metro Fire Rescue operate under the International Fire Code (IFC). It is the responsibility of the occupants and building management/ownership to stay in compliance with code requirements governing open-flame cooking devices such as charcoal, natural gas, and propane grills:

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

Exceptions:



- ✓ Propane grills with a cylinder capacity up to 1 pound of LP-gas are allowed. These would include small “camping” style grills or larger “standard” grills fitted with a 1 pound LP-gas cylinder adapter.
- ✓ If your building **and** balcony are protected by fire sprinklers, then you are not restricted to a 1 pound LP-gas cylinder and charcoal is allowed.
- ✓ Grills of all types are unrestricted at single-family homes and townhomes.



South Metro Fire Rescue will work with building owners and property managers to ensure tenants are informed of these prohibitions through rental agreements, signs, newsletters, etc. We also encourage the installation of community grilling areas to provide residents with an alternative and convenient way of continuing to enjoy grilling.

Please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (720) 989-2230 if you have any questions.