

# UNION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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September 1, 2016

To: Apartment Management and Condominium Associations

From: Assistant Chief Mark Fyffe

RE: Storage of Portable LP Gas Containers Awaiting Use

Since 2005, Ohio Fire Code has prohibited the use of open flame cooking devices on decks and balconies of multi-family structures larger than a duplex with few exceptions. Below is an excerpt from a Union Township Fire Department letter **RE: Outdoor Grilling** dated **March 10, 2015**.

*"According to section 308.3.1 of the Ohio Fire Code, the operation of a charcoal burner, or any other open-flame cooking device, is prohibited on combustible decks and balconies. These devices shall not be used anywhere within 10 feet of combustible construction, which could include a nearby wall, overhang, patio fence, railing, or the deck above your own deck or patio."*

*"In addition, any cooking device utilizing propane fuel is subject to regulation, depending on the size of its fuel container. Any device using a fuel container larger than a one-pound cylinder is prohibited on combustible decks and balconies. These devices shall not be used anywhere within 10 feet of combustible construction, which could include a nearby wall, overhang, patio fence, railing, or the deck above your own deck or patio. It is worth noting that the typical gas grill utilizes an LP (Liquid Propane) container with a nominal capacity of 20 pounds of LP-gas."*

*"The owner of the structure and/or complex is responsible for insuring that the requirements of the Ohio Fire Code are followed."*

The Ohio Fire Code also addresses the **storage of portable LP Gas containers** for multi-family structures larger than a duplex. Ohio Fire Code 3809.10.2 requires that storage of cylinders within a residential building including the basement or any storage area in a common basement storage area in multi-family buildings and attached garages, shall be limited to cylinders with a maximum water capacity of 2.7 pounds [nominal 1 lb. gas capacity cylinder] and shall not exceed 5.4 pounds nominal aggregate water capacity [nominal two 1 lb. gas capacity cylinders] per each living space unit.

In summary, a multifamily building with more than two units cannot have LP gas cylinders larger than 1 lb. (type you would find at a camping supply store) in storage. There cannot be more than two of the 1 lb. cylinders per living unit stored in the building

If you have any questions pertaining to this section of code or any code related questions, please feel free to call me at 528-4446 or E-mail me at [mfyffe@union-township.oh.us](mailto:mfyffe@union-township.oh.us)



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