

UNION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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March 10, 2015

To: Apartment Management and Condominium Associations

From: Assistant Chief Mark Fyffe

RE: Outdoor Grilling

Every year, residential complexes suffer severe damage or loss from fires that begin with an open-flame cooking device being operated on a balcony. According to the U. S. Fire Administration, there is an average of 6,500 grill fires each year, resulting in almost 27 million dollars in fire loss.

New regulations governing the operation of open-flame cooking devices, such as barbecue grills, were first presented in the 2005 Ohio Fire Code, which went into effect on September 1, 2005. This code was adopted by The Ohio Department of Commerce and The State Fire Marshal's Office and is effective statewide.

Please note: These rules apply only to multi-family structures larger than a duplex. The code does not prevent the use of cooking devices on the decks of single-family and two-family dwellings.

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.

If you have any questions pertaining to this section of code or any code related questions, please feel free to contact the Life Safety Division at 528-4446 or E-mail me at mfyffe@union-township.oh.us.



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