North Maine Fire Protection District

9301 N. Potter Road Des Plaines, Illinois 60016 847-297-5020 FAX 847-297-2853
Fire Chief Bob Greiner

RE: Cooking/Grills on balconies, decks and patios

Dear Apartment/Condo management and residents:
Every year there are significant fires caused by the use of outside cooking devices (BBQ grills) on balconies in multi-tenant residential buildings throughout the Chicagoland area and the United States.

The North Maine Fire Protection District would like to remind you, per the adopted fire code's;

NFPA 1, Sections 10.10.6 For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose shall be used or kindled on any balcony, under any overhanging portion, or within 10 ft (3 m) of any structure.

10.10.6.2 For other than one-and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking shall be stored on a balcony.

IFC 2021: International Fire Code (IFC): 308.1.4 Open Flame Cooking devices. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10feet of combustible construction. Exceptions: 1) One & Two-family dwellings
2) Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
3) LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2-1/2lbs [nominal 1 pound LP-gas capacity] This translates to the 20lb LP –gas (propane) tanks that consumers use for cooking are NOT allowed.

At this time, there is no prohibition of ***ELECTRIC OPERATED GRILLS ONLY. HOWEVER***, this is at the discretion of your management, existing association rules, and/or lease's. You must follow those rules.

We understand that many residents continually elect to use grills on the prohibited areas and enforcement is difficult. The North Maine Fire Protection District also relies on property management, building owners, and the associations to address and comply with this fire code. Our experiences with insurance companies has found that they do NOT allow grills on balconies if the fire code prohibits them.

We encourage cooperation and a solution of a common grilling area that complies with the fire code. If the continued use of grills in the prohibited areas continues to occur and is not addressed, there is a potential of fines being issued to ensure compliance for everyone's safety.

If you have any questions, please contact the North Maine Fire Prevention Bureau at 847-297-5020. We thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Scott Peterson

Scott Peterson
Fire Marshal
North Maine FPD

Trustees
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