



Fact Sheet:
Grilling on Apartment Balconies

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

HAZARDS

- Use of a gas charcoal grill on an apartment balcony can put an entire building and the life safety of its occupants at risk of a fire.
- Hot charcoal or open flames can start a fire if in contact with combustible materials.
- Wet charcoal can self heat and spontaneously combust.
- Burning charcoal can introduce high levels of carbon monoxide. Never use a charcoal grill in an enclosed space or near an open window.
- Leaking gas from cylinders that are improperly turned off can be ignited by any spark or flame and can cause an explosion and/or fire.

The City of Bettendorf adopted the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) by Ordinance.

IFC Section 308.1.4:

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

Exceptions: 1 - One- and 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 ½ pounds [nominal 1 pound LP-gas capacity]



The use and storage of open-flame LP gas or the use of charcoal barbecues on combustible balconies is prohibited unless the building is protected by a fire sprinkler system and there is a sprinkler protecting the deck/balcony. (see also exceptions to IFC §308.1.4)

These rules apply to existing and newly constructed buildings which have three or more attached units.

This rule does not apply to noncombustible construction such as concrete steel or to balconies protected by fire sprinklers

SAFE GRILLING TIPS

- Keep children away from grilling area.
- Use grilling tools that give the chef plenty of clearance from the heat.
- Don't leave cooking unattended.
- Allow the grill to cool before moving it.
- Place the grill on a noncombustible tray.
- If grilling on a combustible apartment balcony use an electric grill.



REMEMBER THESE ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFETY PRACTICES

Know your building's fire protection system – Be familiar with the type of fire protection system in your building. Know the location of smoke alarms and whether your building is protected by fire sprinklers.

Smoke Alarms – Smoke Detectors Save Lives

You may be responsible for maintenance and testing of your smoke alarms and replacing batteries. Check the smoke detectors monthly by pushing the test button and listening for the alarm. Change batteries at least annually.

(Note – If there is a power outage, it may be necessary to replace the batteries sooner.)

“Change you Clock – Change your Battery”

Develop and practice a home escape plan – **Know two ways out of every room and your escape route out of the building.**

IN CASE OF FIRE KNOW WHAT TO DO!!

- CALL 9-1-1
- Don't rush hot into the hallway. Feel the door first. If it is hot, use another way out.
- Never use elevators during a fire. Use the stairs. Close all doors behind you to slow the fire spread.
- Get out and stay out! Go directly to your planned meeting place and stay there. If you think someone is trapped inside, notify the fire department.
- If you can't escape from your apartment, stuff wet towels, sheet or clothes around the door and vents to keep smoke out. If no smoke is coming into the room that you're in, open a window slightly at the top and bottom. Hang a sheet or towel out the window to alert arriving firefighters.

Bettendorf Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

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