



Fire Prevention Bureau

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Open Flame Cooking Devices on Combustible Balconies and Decks

TO: Mangers, Owners, and Occupants of Multi-Family Dwellings in Fort Collins

Please be aware that in January of 2009, Poudre Fire Authority adopted the 2006 International Fire Code. One of the changes is the following code as amended:

(17) Section 308.3.1 is amended to read as follows:

308.3.1 Open-Flame cooking devices. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. One-and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

International Code and Commentary:

This prohibition comes from the potential for hot embers to fall from the firebox of the cooking device and ignite a combustible surface, such as a wooden balcony or deck. The 10 ft. separation also reduces the likelihood that fire-starting or cooking flare-ups will come in contact with combustible wall construction that is easily ignited. **Exception 1** exempts one-and two-family dwellings from the requirements of this section. In those occupancies, the level of familiarity and control exercised by the building occupants is recognized as offsetting the hazards of using open-flame cooking devices. There are practical difficulties involved in enforcing such regulations in one-and two-family dwellings as well. **Exception 2** recognizes the added protection of sprinklers.

(18) Subsection 308.3.1.1 is amended to read as follows:

308.3.1.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices. LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity] shall not be located within 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.

International Code and Commentary:

This section restricts LP-gas burners to small tabletop grills or units that might be used in cooking within residential occupancies. The exception allows the use of LP-gas barbeque grills of any size on balconies of one and two-family dwellings, but not on balconies or decks of multiple-family dwellings where the property and life safety hazard is greater.

If you have further questions, please contact me at 219-5183.

Sincerely,

Chad Myers
Assistant Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention Bureau

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