



BURNSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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March 17, 2010

To: MULTI-HOUSING RESIDENTS

At this time of year we once again wish to remind Burnsville multi-family residents of the state law prohibiting the use of cooking grills. Grilling is not permitted on the decks of multi-housing buildings or within 15 feet of the building.

The types of grills prohibited are any that produce an open flame -- this includes charcoal and propane. Electric grills are not prohibited by state law.

Sec. 1.1: Open Flame Prohibited: In any structure containing three or more dwelling units that have a common hallway and/or shared means of egress, no person shall kindle, maintain, or cause any fire or open flame on any balcony above ground level, or on any ground floor patio within 15 feet of any structure.

Sec. 1.2: Fuel Storage Prohibited: No person shall store or use any fuel, barbecue, torch, or similar heating or lighting chemical or device in the locations designated in Section 1.1.

Exception: Listed electric or gas fired barbecue grill that are permanently mounted and wired or plumbed to the building's gas supply or electrical system and that maintain a minimum clearance of 18 inches on all sides, unless listed for lesser clearances, may be installed on balconies and patios when approved by the Fire Chief.

We hope to convey to you a sense of the danger of grilling on decks. A deck fire can extend to the building's surface quickly and travel to other decks and building openings.

Responsibility falls on everyone involved to reduce this hazard especially when many lives are subject to danger. The loss of the convenience and enjoyment of outdoor cooking is necessary to protect others from this obvious and proven danger.

Thank you.

Lee Latourelle
Burnsville Fire Marshal
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