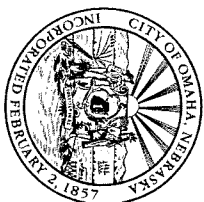


OMAHA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**NEWS RELEASE**



**FROM:** Battalion Chief Ron Benak  
Fire Prevention & Public Information Office  
1516 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102  
**Phone:** Public Information Office (402) 444-4097 or 444-5710  
Assistant Fire Marshal (402) 444-5711 or 444-4115  
**FAX** 444-6378

**DATELINE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RELEASE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUBJECT:** IFC 2003 – BAN ON GRILLS ON APARTMENT BALCONIES

**Description:**

Section 308.3 Open-flame cooking devices.  
Charcoal burners and other open-flame devices shall not be operated or stored on combustible balconies 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.

Section 308.3.1 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 ((0.454kg)) LP-gas capacity) shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

**Exception:** One- and two-family dwellings.

UL approved electric ranges, grills, or similar electrical apparatus shall be permitted.

Section 307.3.2 Recreation fires.  
Recreation fires shall not be conducted within 25' of a structure or combustible material. This would include outdoor patio fireplaces, heating devices, chimineas, etc. on the balcony or under any overhanging portion, or within 25' of any structure.

Follow up questions should be directed to the *Public Information Office at 444-4097 or 444-5710 or Assistant Fire Marshal at 444-5711 or 444-4115*

Total Number Of Pages \_\_\_\_ Please Call If Any Are Missing.

**Submitted By:**

Name: Battalion Chief Ron Benak

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

July 8, 2008

Dear Apartment Manager/Property Owner:

The City of Omaha has adopted the 2003 Edition of the International Fire Code Package. The code has included specific language in regards to the use, storage and location of open flame devices. This includes grills and other devices that have an open flame. These devices shall not be **operated or stored** on combustible balconies; additionally, propane cylinders are not allowed to be used or stored in any of the locations I have just described.

**In no instance shall open flame cooking devices be operated within 10 feet of combustible construction. There are three exceptions to this code: 1) one and two-family dwellings, 2) decks that are protected by sprinkler systems and 3) LP-gas burners having no greater than a nominal 1 pound LP-gas capacity.**

UL approved electric grills are not considered open flame devices and may be used if approved by the property management.

These devices can still be used on first floor, noncombustible patios when the 10-foot distance requirement can be maintained from both vertical and horizontal construction. Keep in mind that combustible construction means the structure, patio fences and deck railings, as well as combustible decks above patios.

I would encourage you to notify your tenants of this new code and to remind them that propane is not allowed to be stored within any building, such as a basement or dwelling unit storage area. I would also suggest that you keep a close eye on your common storage areas for propane containers.

It is the responsibility of the apartment management to ensure that all city codes and ordinances are adhered to on their property. The management company may be assessed a fee if violations of this nature exist at the time of any re-inspection.

If you have any questions regarding the requirements, please feel free to contact Assistant Fire Marshal Daryl Giles or myself at 402-444-5711 or 444-5710.

Sincerely,

Ron Benak  
Battalion Chief  
Omaha Fire Department  
Fire Prevention and Education Bureaus  
402-444-5710