



FIRE CODE BAN ON GRILLS

By: James Orlando, Senior Legislative Attorney

Duke Chen, Associate Analyst

FIRE CODE GRILL RESTRICTION

Under the national fire code, “[f]or 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.”

The code also prohibits these devices from being stored on a balcony at such dwellings.

The code allows use of listed equipment that is permanently installed in accordance with its listing, applicable codes, and the manufacturer’s instructions (National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 1: Fire Code (2012 edition), Ch. 10.11.6).

ISSUE

Describe (1) how condominium units are affected by the fire prevention code’s ban on grills and similar devices at certain dwellings and (2) any available data on the number of fires, nationally or in Connecticut, caused by grills on decks or porches.

SUMMARY

The National Fire Protection Association’s fire code restricts the use of grills or other heating devices near dwelling units other than one-and two-family dwellings (see sidebar). As of May 7, 2015, this restriction is incorporated into the [state fire prevention code](#) by reference (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 29-291a-8a).

The state code exempts detached one- and two-family dwellings and “multiple single-family dwellings attached side-by-side (townhouse) not more than three stories in height with each dwelling having a separate means of egress”

(Conn. Agencies Reg., § 29-291a-1a). Thus, any condominium building not meeting this exemption is subject to the restriction noted above.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), from 2007 to 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,800 home fires involving grills, with 3,800 structure fires and 5,000 outside fires. Of these fires, 29%

(approximately 1,100) of structure fires and 13% (approximately 350) of outside or unclassified fires occurred with grills on an exterior balcony or open porch. (For more information on home fires involving grills, see NFPA's [fact sheet](#).)

According to the Connecticut State Fire Marshal's Office, there were 100 fires reported between July 1, 2013 and July 31, 2015 involving grills (without specifying where the grills were located).

JO/DC:bs