



Fire Department

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To Whom It May Concern:

On June 21, 2004 the Aurora City Council voted to adopt the International Fire Code (IFC). The International Fire Code is very similar to the previously enforced Uniform Fire Code. One of the major issues that the new code addresses is the restriction of open flame cooking devices (Bar-BQ grills) on combustible balconies in multi-family occupancies.

This has always been an issue of public safety for the community, but the previous code failed to address it specifically. Locally and nationally, fire personnel have responded to numerous emergencies generated by the presence and use of various cooking appliances on balconies. LP-gas (propane) and charcoal can have inherent safety issues that are compounded by their use in close proximity of combustible construction and living quarters. These safety issues are obviously magnified in a multi-family structure where the structural components are shared throughout the building. You and your neighbors are much more susceptible to mishaps that may result in a fire or carbon monoxide production when residing in a multi-family dwelling.

The International Fire Code specifically exempts R-3 residential and single family attached residences from the restrictions for operating a barbeque on a balcony or combustible deck. While multi-family R-1 and R-2 residences restrict charcoal burners and other open flame cooking devices on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction the building classification is the determining factor.

Unfortunately, the determination of a residence's building classification cannot always be established by appearance alone. The general features of a specific address may or may not be indicative of a multi-family versus an R-3 / single family attached occupancy classification. I would recommend that you contact the Aurora Building Department at (303) 739-7420 for clarification of the building classifications for your residential property within the city of Aurora.

As always, the Aurora Fire Department encourages the residents of Aurora to make an effort to keep themselves and their neighbors safe. Alternative options for Bar-BQ grills include one of the many electric styles on the market, providing adequate safety is exercised regarding the power source. The specific section of the code that addresses this issue is available for review.

2009 International Fire Code

SECTION 308:

OPEN FLAMES

308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices.

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings. (R-3 residential and single family attached)
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
3. LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2.5 pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity].

Sincerely,

Steve Beumer
Assistant Fire Marshal

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Section 101.3 Intent.

The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices.

This code in no way prevents Home Owners Associations, Management Companies, and / or other responsible regulatory entities from establishing more stringent interpretations of these code requirements. It is also the responsibility of these aforementioned entities to enforce those more stringent interpretations within their respective organizations.