



EDINA BUILDING SAFETY POLICY/INFORMATION ₁			
Fires or Barbecues on Balconies or Patios		2020 MSFC Appendix O	
subject		code reference	
Fire Department		approval <i>A. E. Smith</i>	
department		approval	
SP-020-F ₂	04/01/2022	1/1/2015	1 of 1
policy number	revision date	effective date	page number
1. All Building Safety sheets adopted by Fire Department and Inspections Department.			
2. Sheet numbers with B suffix developed by Inspections Dept. Sheet numbers with F suffix developed by Fire Dept.			

Subject: Barbecue Grills, Open flames, Fuel Storage in Multi-family buildings are prohibited

The use and storage of solid fuel or propane cooking equipment on patios and balconies in multifamily dwellings has resulted in many building fires each year. Because of this fire hazard, the Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) and the City of Edina prohibit the storage or use of any heat appliances, grills, open flames, or fuel within 15 feet of any multifamily buildings that contains three (3) or more dwelling units.

Note: This exempts single family dwellings and duplexes. It also exempts townhouses which are separated in conformance with State Building Code adopted in 1973. These townhouses are by definition, considered separate buildings with zero lot lines. (Townhouses built prior to 1973 would require proof of fire walls to be considered separate buildings.)

Residents in multifamily buildings can apply for an exception to the above to have a UL listed electric or natural gas-fired barbecue grill (no other appliances) that is permanently mounted and plumbed to the building's gas supply, or wired to the building's electrical system, and must meet manufacturers recommendation and clearance. *Note -Electric grills must be directly plugged into on outdoor GFCI protected receptacle on the balcony or patio with no extension cords. Gas supply installation needs to be done by a licensed gas fitter and inspected by a Building Inspector under a Mechanical Permit.*

Exception Permit Process:

- First ensure your building's Homeowners Association (HOA) or property management allow grills. Property management and HOA's requirements may be more restrictive than the City of Edina
- Apply for a Grill Exception Permit online at <https://www.edinamn.gov/717/Fire-Permits-Policies>.
- Schedule an inspection with a Fire Inspector who will determine if the grill exception would be acceptable.
 - o Factors taken into consideration:
 - Construction material of building
 - Construction material of balcony/decking/fencing/patio
 - Do the units have a common hallway or shared means of egress?
 - Do sprinkler or fire suppression systems exist?

Violations

Grills found stored or being used in multifamily buildings without an approved barbecue grill exception permit are subject to the violations of this policy, which are punishable as a misdemeanor in accordance with Section 110.4 of the MSFC and Minnesota Statutes 299F.011, Subd. 6 Misdemeanor

Questions

Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 952 826-0339