

Press Release – Summer Grilling – “New Laws and Safety Tips”  
Fire Inspector Doug Warsinski 994-4908



New Fire Code Changes:

Residents need to be aware of new changes in the fire code. On April 21, 2004 the International Fire Code, 2003 edition, is in effect for the City of Ann Arbor. New prohibitions include using open flame near combustible balconies & placement of smoke detectors.

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### **Smoke Detectors**

The city also adopted new requirements for smoke detectors in all dwellings. The adopted code language takes effect on July 1, 2004.

Management is responsible for the correct installation of smoke detectors in any rental housing. The residents are responsible to maintain them in working order and to report all problems to management. Removing of the batteries or detectors by the resident will result in a \$100 citation being issued to the resident. Each day the violation occurs is considered a separate offense. Please call your building manager or the Off-Campus Housing Office if you have any questions or concerns.

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### **Grills and Barbecues**

The new fire code prohibits the following in relation to out door cooking and grilling:

1. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies (wood, siding, etc.) or within 10' of combustible construction

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings
  2. Where decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system
2. Propane and other LPG gas burners with a liquid capacity greater than 2.5 lbs. shall not be located on combustible balconies or with 10' of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings

Call your apartment complex or the Off-Campus Housing Office at 763-3205 with questions.

**Cooking with an open flame next to combustible construction could result in a \$100 civil infraction.**

**Charcoal grills**



**Charcoal kettles**



**Propane grills**



**Portable gas grills with less than 2.5 lbs. water weight (1 lb gas)**



**Electric Grills**



## Safe Barbecue Tips:

1. Leave a sufficient space between the grill and eaves and overhangs. In multi-family construction, do not use charcoal or gas grills on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of any building. Never leave the grill on and unattended.
2. Always remain present when the grill is in use.
3. Only use a grill on a level surface.
4. Keep children away from grills. Grills, especially three-legged grills, can be easily tipped.
5. When using a charcoal grill, use only lighter fluids that are designated for use for barbecue grills. Do not add fluid after the charcoal has been lit.
6. When using a gas grill, ensure that all hose connections are tight before cooking. Use a soapy water solution to safely reveal leaks on hoses and connections. Never use a hose with visible cracks.
7. Always follow the manufacturer's safety instructions when using a grill.
8. The appropriate way to light a gas grill is to open the lid and light the match or grill lighter and then turn on the gas burners. When you are finished cooking, turn off the propane cylinder valve then turn off the burners. Make sure the grill is cool before storing it.
9. Have a professional make any necessary repairs or replace the grill.
10. Do not store charcoal near combustible material or where it can get wet.
11. Do not store propane containers indoors.
12. Soak coals in water for 48 hours before disposing it in the trash.
13. Wear a heavy apron and use a grilling mitt that fits over your forearm to prevent burns.

Check your brand of grill for any recalls with the Consumer Products Safety Commission at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). Forty-four people have been burned, some seriously, by the "Red Devil – Portable Outdoor Kitchen," a red metal grill on a tripod stand.