



# Northville Township Fire Department

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## Outdoor Grilling Regulations

### Referenced Standards:

- 2015 International Fire Code as adopted by Chapter 79-2

### Commentary:

This document is in regards to the usage of outdoor grills, gas or otherwise, in Northville Township. The safety of yourself, your family and your neighbors is of our utmost concern. The information included below is designed to clarify any issues regarding outdoor grilling. This guidance is based on the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC), as adopted by the Charter Township of Northville, current department standards and best practices.

### Standards:

#### **IFC 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 of combustible construction. Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
3. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2 ½ pounds.

This code section recognizes the unique fire hazards associated with apartments or condominiums. Due to the increased numbers of occupants living within adjoining units and the fire spread concerns, the code attempts to eliminate any obvious fire hazards. Most apartment or condominium complexes do not meet any of the listed exceptions because they: **1.)** are a multi-family complex and **2.)** have balconies that are not protected with an automatic fire suppression system. **Exception 3** pertains only to very small tabletop grills such as camping grills. Based on these conditions and the construction of the complex, outdoor grilling devices **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to be used on any balcony or within 10 feet of any combustible construction. All grilling devices, including those located on lower level cement/brick patios, may only be operated when located at least ten (10) feet away from of the exterior of the building, deck, shed, etc.

Please remember that even when following these rules it is still of the utmost importance to make sure you are grilling safely. Never leave cooking unattended and remember to keep children away from the grill at all times. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Fire Prevention Division at (248) 348-5807 or via email at [thughes@twp.northville.mi.us](mailto:thughes@twp.northville.mi.us).

Respectfully,

Thomas M. Hughes, Jr.  
Fire Marshal