



# FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

<b>Title: Storage and Use of Barbeques On Patios of Multi-Family Residences</b>		
<b>Number:</b> FPG-24	<b>Effective Date:</b> 01/01/2008	<b>Revised Date:</b> 03/01/2009
<b>Code References:</b> California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC)		
<b>Note:</b> <i>This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>		

### Scope

This Guideline has been developed to assist the public and business community with use and storage requirements for barbeques on patios of multi-family dwelling units (apartments, condominiums, lodging houses with three or more dwelling units).

### Codes and Guidelines

This guideline shall apply the use and storage of barbeques on balconies of multi-family dwelling units in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

### Permits Required

A Fire Code permit is not required.

### Specific Requirements

1. **Use of barbeques, charcoal burners or other open-flame cooking devices.**
  - a. Barbeques, charcoal burners and other open flame cooking devices are not permitted to be used on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. This includes the surrounding walls and overhangs. Exceptions:
    - i. Single and two-family dwellings
    - ii. Where buildings are protected by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system
  - b. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) burners having an LPG container with a water capacity greater than two and one-half (2.5) pounds (nominal one-pound) shall not be used on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Exception:
    - i. Single and two-family dwellings
  - c. Electric barbeques are permitted to be used on combustible balconies.
  
2. **Storage of barbeques, charcoal burners or other open-flame cooking devices.**



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- a. If permitted by the property manager or owner, charcoal barbeque units may be stored on combustible balconies.
- b. LPG fueled cooking devices with a fuel container larger than 1 pound are not allowed to be stored on a combustible balcony or within 10 feet of combustible construction. There is no exception for automatic fire sprinklers.
- c. Electric barbeque units may be stored on balconies.