



SAN RAMON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Information Bulletin

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OPEN FLAME COOKING DEVICES ON BALCONIES

The new California Fire Code, adopted January 1, 2008 contains restrictions pertaining to the use of open-flame cooking devices (barbecues) on balconies of buildings other than one and two family dwellings. The issue and subsequent requirements and limitations apply only to these buildings or complexes and to the dwelling units contained in them. (Reference 2007 CFC, Sections 308.3.1 and 308.3.1.1)

The following are key points and how the new code provisions are intended to be enforced within the boundaries of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

- The new Fire Code restricts the use of open-flame cooking devices including charcoal, wood burning, or LP-gas cooking devices (including infrared grills) on combustible balconies or patios or within 10 feet of combustible construction.
- In this application, the determination of combustible construction is wood siding or use of other wood products on exterior walls, ceilings, and decks of balconies or patios.
- For first floor units wood fencing must be separated 10 feet from open-flame cooking devices.
- The above noted restrictions do not apply when apartment buildings and balconies or patios are protected by fire sprinklers, or when LP-gas cooking devices limit the size fuel container to a container with a water capacity of 2.5 pounds (nominal 1 pound LP-gas capacity).

These new codes went into effect January 1, 2008. As Fire and Building Codes vary from city to city the effects are somewhat different. Building managers or Home Owner Associations may have regulations that are more restrictive than the California Fire Code.

If you have questions regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact:
San Ramon Valley Fire Prevention Division at (925) 838-6600