

**Remember These  
Additional Fire Safety  
Practices**

**Know your building's fire protection System**-Be familiar with the type of fire protection system in your building. Know the location of smoke alarms and whether your building is protected by fire sprinklers.

**Smoke Alarms**-You may be responsible for maintenance and testing of your smoke alarms and replacing batteries. Check them monthly by pushing the test button and listening for the alarm. Change batteries annually. "Change your clock-change your battery."

**Develop and practice a home escape plan**-Know two ways out of every room and your escape route out of the building.

For Additional  
Information  
Contact:

Division Chief Rich Barr, Fire Marshal  
785-830-7003

[rbarr@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:rbarr@ci.lawrence.ks.us)

[lawrencefiremed.org](http://lawrencefiremed.org)



City of Lawrence

**Fact Sheet**

**Grilling on  
Apartment  
Balconies**



Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical  
Fire Administration  
1911 Stewart Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66046  
785-830-7000

The Lawrence City Commission adopted the International Fire Code with an effective date of **January 1, 2008**.

**The International Fire Code section 308.3.1 specifically states:**

*“Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Exceptions include one and two family dwellings and balconies or decks that are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.”*

*“308.3.1.1. Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices. LP-gas burners having a LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds (nominal 1 pound (0.45kg) LP-gas capacity) shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.”*  
*Exceptions include one- and two-family dwellings.*

Beginning **January 1, 2008**, new codes **prohibit** the use and storage of open-flame LP-gas (greater than 1 pound) or the use of charcoal barbecues on Combustible (eg. wood products) balconies unless there is a sprinkler overhead.

The rules apply to existing and newly constructed multifamily residential buildings which have three or more attached units.

The rule does not apply to noncombustible construction such as concrete or steel or balconies protected by fire sprinklers.



**Safe Grilling Tips**

- If grilling on a combustible apartment balcony, use an electric grill.
- Keep children away from grilling area.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Use grilling tools that give the chef plenty of clearance from heat.
- Don’t leave cooking unattended.
- Allow the grill to cool before moving it.
- Place on a non-combustible tray.

**Hazards**

- Use of a gas or charcoal grill on an apartment balcony can put an entire building and occupants life safety at risk of a fire.
- Hot charcoals or open flames can start a fire if in contact with combustible materials.
- Wet charcoal can spontaneously combust.
- Burning charcoal can introduce high levels of carbon monoxide.
- Leaking gas from cylinders that are improperly maintained or not properly turned off can be ignited by an ignition source and cause an explosion and/or fire.

**In Case of Fire**  
**Know What to Do!**

Call 9-1-1

Don’t rush out into the hallway. Feel the door. If it is hot, use another way out. If the door is cool, leave by the nearest exit.

If your building has a public announcement system, listen carefully and follow directions.

Never use elevators in a fire. Use the stairs. Close all doors behind you to slow fire spread.

Get out and stay out. Go directly to your planned meeting place and stay there. If you think someone is trapped inside, notify the fire department.

If you can’t escape from your apartment, stuff wet towels, sheets or clothes around the door and vents to keep smoke out. Call the fire department and tell them where you are. If no smoke is coming into the room you’re in, open a window slightly both at the top and the bottom. Hang a sheet or towel out the window to alert arriving firefighters.