



## **PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

### **Bureau of Fire Prevention**

10 East Camp McDonald Road

Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070

Non emergency #847-253-8060 Fax #847-253-4759

## *Fire Prevention Safety Alert!*

### *Grill usage on combustible balconies causing fires.*

The new International Fire Codes has specifically addressed the on going problem of charcoal and gas grills being used on combustible balconies.

According to section 308.3.1 of the newly adopted International Fire Code:

“Charcoal burners and other open flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction”

“Propane grills with propane capacity of greater than 1 pound shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction”

*The International Fire Code makes an exception for 1 and 2 family homes or homes with a sprinkler system that protects the balcony.*

In a three year study, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) data shows that there are, on average, 6500 grill fires annually. These fires resulted in 5 deaths and 27.5 million in property damage.

21% of all grill fires occur on balconies or open porches per NFPA.

A few grill reminders:

- Follow the instructions that were provided by the manufacturer.
- Keep children away from the hot grill; be careful with matches and charcoal fluid.
- On a balcony, have a non combustible pad under your *approved* propane grill.
- Check the propane tank connection and make sure it is tight and the valve works properly.
- Ensure the charcoal ash pan is in place and clean.
- Be careful with ash disposal, be sure the coals are cold before placing in the trash, we recommend using a metal garbage can only.
- Have a proper, working fire extinguisher ready and know how to use it.



Any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Timothy Jones – Fire Prevention Bureau 847-253-8060x222