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Informational Bulletin 2020-08

Grilling Safety at Multi-Unit Dwellings and One- and Two-Family Dwelling

Purpose:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information as to the permitted use of grills at multi-unit dwellings and one- and two-family dwellings.

Definitions:

Multi-unit Dwelling - means any structure which contains three or more single units which provide permanent or transient living facilities which may or may not include cooking and eating facilities, for one or more persons. This term shall include but not be limited to: rooming houses, dormitories, motels, hotels, apartment buildings and buildings which contain condominium units; provided, however, that such buildings contain three or more units.

(Note: RSA 153:1 defines "Multi-unit dwelling" as any structure with 2 or more single units, however this specific code requirement relates to occupancies/structures with more than two dwelling units).

One- and Two-Family Dwelling - means any structure which contains one or two dwelling units, which is designed to be occupied for living purposes exclusively as a home.

Multi-Unit Dwellings (three or more single units):

For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion, or within 10 ft. of any structure.

Electric grills with a safety certification from a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), shall not be considered open flame cooking devices under the state fire code.

Listed equipment permanently installed in accordance with its listing, applicable codes, and manufacturer's instructions shall be permitted. The term listed is one of great importance. The equipment shall be used in accordance to the manufacturer's listing to include the location for use and distances to combustibles. It is not the intent of this paragraph to allow the permanent installation of portable equipment.

One- and Two-Family Dwellings:

Grill Safety Recommendations:

- Grills should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and instructions.
- Grills should never be used inside any building, garage, shed, or breezeway.
- Grills should not be used under building overhangs or covered areas (e.g., awnings, umbrellas, porches or gazebos).
- Keep loose clothing away from any cooking surfaces and beware of grease flare-ups.
- Check the hoses on gas grills for any cracks or deterioration.
- Check all connections to the gas tank for leaks by applying a soap and water solution to the hose and connections. If you see any bubbles on the hose or any connection turn off the gas, clean off the soap solution, and check all of the connections for tightness and recheck the hose and connections using the soap solution again.
- Never leave your grill unattended and keep children and pets at least 3 ft. away from the grill area.

References:

- (1) NH Fire Laws Annotated RSA 153:1
- (2) NH Fire Laws Annotated RSA 153:5
- (3) NFPA 1 Fire Code 2015 Edition, Ch. 10.10.6.1
- (4) NFPA 1 Fire Code 2015 Edition, Ch. 10.10.6.2