

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

paint from a combustible base material could heat that material to its ignition temperature and leave an almost undetectable smolder that might burst into flames later. Safe and effective means for removing paint at lower temperatures, such as warm-air heat devices capable of generating high-temperature convection air, are readily available for sale or rent and far less likely to result in an ignition of combustible materials.

308.1.4 Open-flame cooking devices. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family *dwelling*s.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an *automatic sprinkler system*.
3. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2½ pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity].

❖ This section contains a strict prohibition on the use of charcoal-burning grills and other open-flame cooking devices in the locations described. Its intent is to mitigate the potential for hot embers to fall from the fire-box of the cooking device and ignite a combustible surface, such as a wooden balcony or deck. The 10-foot (3048 mm) separation also reduces the likelihood that fire-starting or cooking flare-ups will come in contact with combustible wall construction that is easily ignited.

Since this section appears to regulate only the operation of the cooking devices, it is often asked if the devices can even be located or stored in the locations described. In the case of LP-gas fired grills using containers larger than those described in Exception 3, the answer is generally no, based on Section 6.20.11.2 of NFPA 58, which does not allow larger containers to be transported through an occupied building. See Sections 6101.1 and 6104.1 of the code for references to NFPA 58.

In the case of locating non-LP-gas-fired cooking devices, the location would have to be approved by the fire code official. Note that the prohibition in this section would also apply to gas grills connected to the building's fuel gas piping system since they are still open flame cooking devices. See also Section 603.4.2.1.1.

Exception 1 exempts one- and two-family dwellings from the requirements of this section and would allow the use of LP-gas barbeque grills of any size on balconies of such buildings. In those occupancies, the level of familiarity and control exercised by the building occupants is recognized as offsetting the hazards of using open-flame cooking devices. There are practical difficulties involved in enforcing such regulations in one- and two-family dwellings as well. Exception 2 recognizes the added protection pro-

vided by sprinklers. Exception 3 allows small LP-gas burning devices such as the tabletop grills or units that might be used in cooking within residential occupancies.

308.1.5 Location near combustibles. Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials.

❖ Each year in nearly every county and community in the country at least one house fire occurs that is caused by a gas-fired space heater igniting nearby combustibles. Accidents involving candles and lanterns used in both outdoor and indoor settings are not at all uncommon. In nearly all of these incidents, the exercise of common sense and the practice of keeping ignition sources and fuel packages well separated could have prevented property damage or loss of life.

308.1.6 Open-flame devices. Torches and other devices, machines or processes liable to start or cause fire shall not be operated or used in or upon wildfire risk areas, except by a permit in accordance with Section 105.6 secured from the *fire code official*.

Exception: Use within inhabited premises or designated campsites that are not less than 30 feet (9144 mm) from grass-, grain-, brush- or forest-covered areas.

❖ This section establishes the fire code official's authority to control through the permitting process the use of open flames in areas susceptible to fires. The term "wildfire risk area" is defined in Chapter 2 of the code and is applied to land covered with grass, grain, brush, forest or similar vegetation that, if ignited, could pose a severe fire danger to surrounding areas. The exception recognizes open ground that is free of combustible materials as an acceptable barrier to fire spread [see the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*® (IWUIC)® for further information].

308.1.6.1 Signals and markers. Flame-employing devices, such as lanterns or kerosene road flares, shall not be operated or used as a signal or marker in or upon wildfire risk areas.

Exception: The proper use of fusees at the scenes of emergencies or as required by standard railroad operating procedures.

❖ This section prohibits the use of flame-producing devices as signal or marker devices except for the use of fusees to mark the scene of an emergency or where routinely employed in railroad procedures, such as when a train is stopped across a roadway not protected by permanent signal lights.

308.1.6.2 Portable fueled open-flame devices. Portable open-flame devices fueled by flammable or combustible gases or liquids shall be enclosed or installed in such a manner as to prevent the flame from contacting combustible material.

Exceptions:

1. LP-gas-fueled devices used for sweating pipe joints or removing paint in accordance with Chapter 61.