

Barbecue Pit Ordinance and Interpretation

The following is an excerpt from the Austin Texas Code of Ordinances, Volume II, Title 25 Land Development Chapter, 25-12, Technical Codes, Article 7: International Fire Code.

Local Ordinance Section 308.3.1

308.3.1 Residential barbecue pits and incinerators. No person may construct, erect, install, maintain or use any incinerator or barbecue pit or burn any combustible material to constitute a fire hazard by the use or burning or to endanger the life or property of any person. Residential barbecue pits, hibachis or other cooking appliances utilizing charcoal, wood or gas as a fuel may not be stored or used on any balconies of residential occupancies, on other combustible balconies, within five feet measured horizontally from any portion of a combustible building, or within fifteen feet measured along the shortest distance if the pit is located below any portion of a combustible building.

Exception: Detached one- and two-family dwellings.

The intended interpretation of this ordinance is as follows:

- 1) No wood or gas fueled barbecue pit of any type is allowed in/on *any* R-1, R-2 or R-4 balcony or apartment. This includes multi-family residential, Boarding houses, hotels and Residential Care/Assisted Living facilities;
- 2) On any other balcony (such as can be found on many commercial, mercantile, or R-3 single-family/Duplex residential occupancies), the barbecue pit must meet horizontal and vertical spatial clearances as declared in the ordinance;
- 3) R-1, R-2 or R-4, occupancies can have barbecue pits on the premises given that they are not on balconies, not in apartments, and can meet the spatial requirements of the ordinance. (An example would be a first floor apartment with a barbecue pit that is located in a common area or yard that is 5 feet from the building and not located away from any structural overhang. Privacy fences are considered to be a portion of the combustible structure).
- 4) A barbecue pit may be stored on the patio or balcony of a multi-family residential occupancy if the pit is boxed in a shipping container and cannot be used if its stored condition. The barbecue pit must be disassembled. In no case shall propane be stored inside a residential occupancy or above the first floor of a residential occupancy.
- 5) A barbecue pit may never be stored or used in any portion of a means of egress.



City of Austin

Austin Fire Department – Emergency Prevention
505 Barton Springs Road Austin, Texas 78767
www.CityofAustin.org/fire



Austin Residents:

In an effort to prevent fires at Apartment Communities, the Austin Fire Department is enforcing a local amendment to the 2003 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, prohibiting the **STORAGE OR USE** of barbecue pits, hibachis or any other outside cooking appliance on balconies, porches, in storage closets, inside any building or closer than five feet to any portion of any combustible wall or building, or closer than fifteen feet below any portion of any combustible building. This amendment includes all cooking appliances that use charcoal, wood or gas (including propane) as a fuel.

While the Austin Fire Department is sympathetic to the inconveniences caused by the local amendment, it has been adopted in response to fire incident data, which have revealed an alarming number of fires at apartment communities in Austin. In fact, **some of the deadliest and most destructive fires in Austin's history** have occurred at apartment communities.

Fines for violating this amendment to the Fire Code start at **\$348.00** and can reach up to **\$548.00** for repeated incidents of non-compliance. The Austin Fire Department will be enforcing this amendment through on-site inspections.

If you have any questions, please call the Austin Fire Department's Emergency Prevention Division at 974-0160.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe!

Residentes de Austin:

En un esfuerzo de prevenir incendios en las comunidades de apartamentos, el departamento de bomberos de la ciudad de Austin está enforcing una enmienda local al CODIGO 2003 INTERNACIONAL DEL FUEGO, que prohíbe **almacenar y usar** parrillas de cualquier tipo, hibachis o hollos para la barbacoa en los balcones o dentro de los edificios. También se prohíbe usar las parillas si no están a 5 (cinco) pies de la pared de cualquier edificio, y también 15 (quince) pies abajo de cualquier combustible edificio. Esta enmienda incluye todas los medios de cocinar que utiliza el carbon, la madera o el gas (**propano**) como combustible.

El departamento de bomberos de Austin comprende la inconveniencia causada for esta enmienda local, sin embargo se ha adoptado esto a causa de tantos incidentes de fuego en las comunidades de apartamentos aqui en Austin. **En Hecho, algunos de los fuegos mas mortales y mas destructivos dentro de Austin han sido por causa de las parrilladas.**

Las multas por violar ésta enmienda al código de fuego empiezan con la cantidad de **\$348.00** y pueden llegar a la cantidad de **\$548.00** por incidentes repetidos. El departamento de bomberos de Austin hará exámenes en sitios para cumplir con ésta enmienda.

Si usted tiene cualquiera pregunta, favor de llamar al Departamento de Bomberos de Austin seccion de prevencion al **974-0160**.

Gracias por su ayuda en mantener nuestra comunidad segura.



AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Mission Goes Beyond the Name

Emergency Prevention Division
One Texas Center, Suite 200
505 Barton Springs Rd
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 974-0160



Austin Residents:

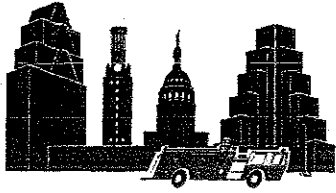
In an effort to prevent fires at Apartment Communities, the Austin City Council has passed a local amendment to the INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, prohibiting the **STORAGE OR USE** of barbeque pits, hibachis or any other outside cooking appliance on balconies, porches, in storage closets, inside any building, closer than five feet to any portion of any combustible wall or building, or closer than fifteen feet below any portion of any combustible building. This amendment includes all cooking appliances that use charcoal, wood or gas (including **PROPANE**) as a fuel.

While the Austin Fire Department is sympathetic to the inconveniences caused by the local amendment, it has been adopted in response to fire incident data, which have revealed an alarming number of fires at apartment communities in Austin. **In fact, some of the deadliest and most destructive fires in Austin's history have occurred at apartment communities.**

Fines for violating this amendment to the Fire Code start at **\$348.00** and can reach up to **\$548.00** for repeated incidents of non-compliance. The Austin Fire Department will be enforcing this amendment through on-site inspections.

If you have any questions, please call the Austin Fire Department's Emergency Prevention Division at 512-974-0160.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe!



AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Mission Goes Beyond the Name



Emergency Prevention Division
One Texas Center, Suite 200
505 Barton Springs Rd
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 974-0160

Residentes de Austin:

En un esfuerzo de prevenir incendios en las comunidades de apartamentos, el departamento de bomberos de la ciudad de Austin está enforcing una enmienda local al CODIGO UNIFORME DEL FUEGO, que prohíbe **almacenar y usar** parrillas de cualquier tipo, hibachis o hollos para la barbacoa en los balcones o dentro de los edificios. También se prohíbe usar las parrillas si no están a 5 (cinco) pies de la pared de cualquier edificio, y también 15 (quince) pies abajo de cualquier combustible edificio. Esta enmienda incluye todos los medios de cocinar que utiliza el carbón, la madera o el gas (**propano**) como combustible.

El departamento de bomberos de Austin comprende la inconveniencia causada por esta enmienda local, sin embargo se ha adoptado esto a causa de tantos incidentes de fuego en las comunidades de apartamentos aquí en Austin. **En Hecho, algunos de los fuegos mas mortales y mas destructivos dentro de Austin han sido por causa de las parrilladas.**

Las multas por violar esta enmienda al código de fuego empiezan con la cantidad de **\$348.00** y pueden llegar a la cantidad de **\$548.00** por incidentes repetidos. El departamento de bomberos de Austin hará exámenes en sitios para cumplir con esta enmienda.

Si usted tiene cualquier pregunta, favor de llamar al Departamento de Bomberos de Austin sección de prevención al **974-0160**.

Gracias por su ayuda en mantener nuestra comunidad segura.