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## **USE OF COOKING GRILLS IN MULTIFAMILY HOUSING**

Fires originating on patios and balconies can pose a significant risk for occupants of multifamily dwellings. These fires may not trigger building detection and suppression systems and may spread into apartments and attic spaces before they are noticed. Abiding by established fire protection standards can help to reduce the potential loss of property and lives due to these types of fires.

The State of Wisconsin adopted National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Chapter NFPA 1, 2012 Edition - Uniform Fire Code, as part of the Wisconsin State Fire Prevention Code, Department of Safety and Professional Services (SPS), Chapter SPS 314. Under these codes, regulations exist regulating grills on balconies. The following is a breakdown of those regulations:

**NFPA 1:10.11.6 “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, under any overhanging portion, or within 10ft (3m) of any structure.”**

**NFPA 1:10.11.6.2 “For other than one-and-two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking shall be stored on a balcony.”**

**SPS 314.10(2r) “For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no fuel for a hibachi, grill, or other similar device used for cooking may be stored with that equipment on a balcony.”**

When used, all grills must be used on the ground level and they must be at least 10 feet away from any combustible portion of a building. In addition, anyone causing fire damage, injury or death because of using a grill or similar device outlined above in such a manner as to be in violation of this code may be held responsible for his or her actions.

When a grill is noted on a balcony during an inspection of a property or from a complaint, it will be brought to the attention of the management company/association. The management company/association will be directed to address the issue with the unit. If the unit will not comply, then the Sussex Fire Department will begin the fining process for any non-compliant unit, the result is a citation.