

# Huntersville Fire Department

Post Office Box 471

Huntersville, North Carolina 28070

## Regulations for Portable Grills

Section 307.5 of the North Carolina State Fire Prevention Code prohibits outdoor grilling within ten (10) feet vertically and horizontally of all occupancies.

Exceptions:

- One- and two-family dwellings
- Townhouses (see note below)
- Building balconies and decks that are protected by an automatic sprinkler system

*Check with your apartment manager – your lease may still prohibit grilling.*

The code applies to charcoal grills, LP-gas grills, hibachis, smokers, or any appliance that uses an open flame to cook. These regulations apply only when grills are in use. The storage of grills when they are not in use or when they are cool (and not subject to creating a fire hazard) is not regulated by this requirement. In addition we would like to offer the following clarifications:

- These regulations also apply to portable electric grills if the grill contains loose heat storage material such as lava rocks.
- The storage of grills with LP tanks having water capacity greater than 2½ pounds is permitted only on decks, porches, and patios at ground level or those that have exterior stairs for access. This is a National Fire Protection Standard requirement.
- The ten (10) feet of clearance also applies to combustible materials such as pine straw, pine bark, and other combustible landscaping materials.
- The regulations do not apply to fixed grills, but strict attention should be paid to the grill instructions to ensure that the required clearances are maintained.

Citations will be issued for violations of these regulations. Repeat offenders are subject to punishment not to exceed 30 days imprisonment or fines not more than \$500. Each day that the violation continues is considered a separate offense.

\*\*A structure is called a townhouse if the occupant owns both the land and property. If a structure is called a townhouse, but is rented as an apartment, it is considered an apartment.