INFORMATION NOTICE 2015-001

Subject: Use of Charcoal Burners and Open-Flame Cooking Devices in Multi-Family Residential Housing

Effective: February 25, 2015


SCOPE:

Provide guidance as to the legal use of charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices in multi-family residential housing (apartment buildings).

DESCRIPTION OF CODE REFERENCE:

Section 308.1.4, of the 2009 International Fire Code, states:

“Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings
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 of not greater than 2 ½ pounds [nominal 1 pound LP-gas capacity].”

RULING:

The use of charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies, patios, decks or within 10 feet of combustible construction, unless meeting one of the exceptions cited above.

Although this code does not apply to a single family residence or duplex, it does apply to any residential complex consisting of three or more units (apartment buildings). Although the Conroe Fire Department will not enforce individual complex policies prohibiting use of these devices, above and beyond the requirements of this code, they are within their rights to enact such policies.

APPROVED:

Mike Legoudes, Jr.
Conroe Fire Marshal