



OCEAN CITY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
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MEMORANDUM

Subject: Cooking Equipment Outside of Any Multifamily Dwelling	Memo #: 2005-001
	Effective: May 18, 2005
Authority: Deputy Chief S.E. Villani, Jr., Fire Marshal	Internal (FMO Staff)

Every summer season we see an increase in the use of recreational cooking equipment in and around condominiums and apartment buildings (multifamily dwellings). The Ocean City Fire Prevention and Protection Code Section 34-43 (16) states the following:

The use of charcoal burning, other fuel burning or electric cooking equipment outside of any multifamily dwelling shall be prohibited unless such cooking equipment is at least twenty (20) feet from every part of the building.

Several points of clarification need to be made for enforcement purposes.

1. A multifamily dwelling is a structure that includes three or more living units.
2. Twenty feet from every part of the building includes outside attached decks and porches.
3. Electrical cooking equipment excludes those electrical grills, which are explicitly listed by an approved listing agency (i.e. Underwriters Laboratories) for indoor use. There are electrical grills designed to be used inside, and there are other electrical grills with higher BTU outputs designed only for outdoor use.
4. It is the discretion of the enforcement officer to issue a civil citation for any violation of the above code, not to exceed \$1,000.

If there are any questions regarding this memo feel free to contact Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Hartley.

S.E. Villani, Jr., Fire Marshal