

# BBQs and Open Flame Devices (candles, etc.) Information



Tucson Fire Department  
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**Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within **10 feet** of combustible construction.

## Exception:

Buildings, balconies, and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

- **Storage of Portable LP-Gas Containers:** Propane tanks **SHALL NOT** be stored on balconies. NFPA 58 Section 5.3.4 states: Storage within a residential building shall be limited to cylinders each with a max. water capacity of 2.7 LB and shall not exceed 5.4 LB aggregate water capacity for smaller cylinders per each living space unit. Cylinders shall meet DOT specifications. BBQ propane cylinders of 4.7 gallons (20 LB) **SHALL NOT** be stored within dwelling units, or on balconies unless shaded and min. 5' from any building opening or vent..
- **Location near combustibles.** Open flames devices such as BBQs, candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near combustibles.

**Religious ceremonies.** Where, in the opinion of the fire code official, adequate safeguards have been taken, participants in religious ceremonies are allowed to carry hand-held candles. Hand-held candles shall not be passed from one person to another while lighted. Candles shall be prohibited in an aisle or exit.

**Group A occupancies (assembly occupancies).** Open-flame devices shall **not** be used in a Group A occupancy.

## Exceptions:

1. Open-flame devices are allowed to be used in the following situations, provided that approved precautions are taken to prevent ignition of a combustible material or injury to occupants:
  - 1.1 Where necessary for ceremonial or religious purposes in accordance with TFC 308.1.7 (above).
  - 1.2 On stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance in accordance with TFC 308.3.2.
  - 1.3 Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and the candle flames are protected.
2. Heat-producing equipment complying with Chapter 6 and the International Mechanical Code.

**Group R-2 dormitories.** Candles, incense, and similar open-flame-producing items shall not be allowed in sleeping units in Group R-2 dormitory occupancies.

**\*Sky lanterns.** A person shall **not** release or cause to be released an untethered sky lantern.