Fire Prevention Tips - Volume 1

Fire Marshal's Office of the Baltimore County Fire Department - September2010

Outdoor Burning: Grills, Heating Devices, Bonfire, Rubbish Fire

2009 NFPA 1 Fire Code Section 10.11 and the Baltimore County Fire Prevention Code Section 1: 10.11

Outdoor burning is not allowed within the perimeter of the Baltimore Beltway (I-695). Outdoor burning in Baltimore County **is allowed** on property outside of the Baltimore Beltway. The property owner must obtain a burning permit authorized by the Environmental Health Division of the Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management. The permit must be kept at the site during the time of the burning. If Environmental Health does not authorize the burn, **no permit is issued** and the burn becomes a violation of the fire code.

Burning **is not allowed** within 50 feet of any structure and if necessary additional distances may be required by the Fire Department, Forest Service or Environmental Health. The property owner must also take steps to prevent the fire from spreading to any structure, such as having a water source available.

No burning is allowed on **Ozone Action Days** with the exception of small recreational fires and bonfires after sunset. There will be no burning during the months of June, July, and August without a written exception from the Department of Environmental Protection. The exception letter must accompany the burning permit.

Small outdoor fires used for cooking, including campfires, cooking with grills (gas-fired / charcoal) and similar devices **do not require a burning permit**, but should be constantly attended.

Grills and heating devices are not to be used or stored on any balconies within 15 feet of a **multifamily dwelling,** with the exception of **UL** listed electric grills.

Prohibited on the property of multifamily dwellings are: hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, deep fryer, fuel heating or cooking appliance or other similar devices.

A multifamily dwelling is a building or portion thereof containing **three or more** dwelling units having independent cooking and bathroom facilities. **Examples:** Apartment / Condominium Buildings.

Townhouses are not treated as multifamily dwellings.