

Outdoor Appliances and Fires – As It Applies to Various Occupancies

I. Charcoal Grills (and any other type of outdoor solid-fuel burning cooking appliance):

Multi-Family Residences (Condominiums and Apartments) – Solid-fuel burning outdoor cooking appliances are allowed at most multi-family complexes (depending on HOA restrictions or CCRs) except during Fire Season. During Fire Season (as declared by Cal Fire), there will be a Temporary Ban that will prevent the use of Charcoal Grills (and any other type of outdoor solid-fuel burning appliance) from approximately late June through late October. The only exception to the solid fuel appliance ban are pellet-fed smokers. These devices will be allowed year-round.

Please note: The fire department strongly believes that Charcoal Grills (and any other type of solid fuel burning cooking appliance) should be PERMANENTLY banned (year-round) from use at multi-family complexes. This includes pellet-fed smokers. Outdoor solid-fuel appliances pose a significant risk to life and safety at multi-family residences. A fire ignited at one unit, can quickly engulf the entire complex. For this reason, multi-family residences require additional fire safety precautions.

Single Family Residences & Townhomes– Solid-fuel burning outdoor cooking appliances are allowed at single family residences and townhomes, except during Fire Season. During Fire Season, their use will be banned.

*During Fire Season outdoor solid-fuel cooking appliances will be banned from use....



Pellet-fed smokers are allowed but are not recommended for multi-family residences.



II. Gas Grills

Multi-Family Residences (Condominiums and Apartments) – Currently, gas grills are allowed year-round.

Please Note: Although propane gas grills are allowed at multi-family complexes, the fire department strongly believes that the *safest* grills are natural gas fueled. Natural gas grills are required to have 3-hour timers. The timers automatically shut off the grill if accidentally left on.

Single Family Residences & Townhomes – Gas grills are allowed year-round at single family residences and townhomes.

*Gas grills are allowed year-round including during Fire Season.



III. Outdoor Fires

Multi-Family Residences (Condominiums and Apartments) – The Northstar Community Services District (NCSD) does not restrict the types of outdoor fires that can be conducted at multi-family complexes except during Fire Season. During Fire Season, homeowners are banned from having any solid-fuel burning outdoor fires.

Please note: If the Associations are allowing their multi-family and townhomes complexes to have outdoor fires, the fire department strongly believes that all outdoor fires should be PERMANENTLY banned. Meaning: The Associations should PERMANENTLY BAN the use of mobile fire pits and cauldrons or permanently installed fire pits (regardless of the ignition/fuel options and if they burn solid fuel, fake logs, lava rocks, glass, etc...) year-round.

Single Family Residences & Townhomes – NCSD does not restrict the types of outdoor fires that can be conducted at single family residences and townhomes, except during Fire Season. During Fire Season, outdoor fires using solid-fuel are banned.

Fire pits that are fueled by natural gas are governed by NCSD ordinance 33-16. This ordinance requires natural gas fire pits to meet our Residential Fire Pit detail. These details are presented to the homeowner prior to the install or the construction permit issuance.

Please note: The Fire Department does not recommend the Associations allow single-family residences and townhomes to have bonfires or campfires on barren land or inside steel fire rings or groupings of rocks. All such outdoor fires should be PERMANENTLY banned. The Fire Department strongly believes that all outdoor fires (outside of Fire Season if allowed by the Associations) should be conducted in appliances or professionally installed structures specifically designed for that purpose. Furthermore, we strongly recommend that all solid fuel burning outdoor fires have a ¼" or less mesh spark screen to filter embers out of the smoke. See examples below.

*During Fire Season these outdoor solid-fuel types of fires are banned from use....





*During Fire Season, propane or natural gas supplied fires that DO NOT burn solid fuel MAY STILL BE USED.....



IV. Patio Heaters

Multi-Family Residences (Condominiums and Apartments) – NCSD has no restrictions on the types of outdoor patio heaters that can be used at multi-family complexes.

Please note: If the Associations are allowing their multi-family complexes to have outdoor patio heaters, the fire department strongly believes that all patio heaters should be PERMANENTLY banned.

Single Family Residences & Townhomes - NCSD has no restrictions on the types of outdoor patio heaters that can be used. However, whenever a natural gas fueled patio heater is chosen, NCSD's ordinance requires a 3-hour timer be installed to shut off the heater if accidentally left on.

Please note: If the Associations are allowing single family residences and townhomes to have outdoor patio heaters, the fire department strongly believes the safest patio heaters are those that have a "trip" device that shuts off the heater should it fall over onto the ground.

*Gas fueled patio heaters are allowed year-round including during Fire Season



Device Example	Allowed during Fire Season	Allowed during Non-Fire Season
Solid Fuel Cooking Appliance	No	Yes
Charcoal BBQ	No	Yes
Natural Gas Grill	Yes	Yes
Propane Gas Grill	Yes	Yes
Wood Fueled Outdoor Fire	No	Yes
Wood Fueled Fire Pit	No	Yes
Gas Fueled Fire Pit	Yes	Yes
Gas Fire Table	Yes	Yes
Outdoor Wood Burning Fireplace	No	Yes
Outdoor Wood Burning Chimenea	No	Yes
Outdoor Wood Burning Fire Bowl	No	Yes
Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace	No	Yes
Wood Burning Hot Tub Heater	No	Yes
Wood Burning Stove (Outdoors)	No	Yes
Outdoor Patio Heater	Yes	Yes
Pellet-Fed Smoker	Yes	Yes