

BALCONY FIRES



The Burnaby Fire Department would like to remind residents of the risks associated with fires that originate on balconies.

Studies have shown that balcony fires are statistically significant, take longer to detect, involve greater suppression efforts, and cause more damage than fires that start within a building. This is due to the lack of fire detection or sprinklers on balconies and storage of combustible material. The risks are high because these types of fires can often leave many people homeless.

The Burnaby Fire Department recommends:

- Keeping balconies free of flammable and combustible materials and debris
- **Not** throwing cigarette butts or anything else from your balcony
- **Not** discarding cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves, or other things that could easily ignite
- Making sure your butts and ashes are out before throwing them away; dousing in water or sand is the best way to do this
- **Not** storing propane or gasoline or other flammable substances in your apartment, on your balcony or in your storage locker

Individual residents should review their condominium or strata bylaws and rules with respect to barbeques on balconies. If barbeques are permitted, residents are advised to review their insurance policies to ensure the fire damage caused by barbeque use on balconies is covered.

For more information, call our Fire Prevention Division at 604-294-7195.