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## Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office

### STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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### CHIEF ENGINEER

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The Mission of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is to provide safety to life and property from fire for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is made-up of thirty four people in five geographically diverse [regions](#) of Virginia. Each region has several inspectors and engineers. These inspectors and engineers do fire inspections in localities that do not have their own fire code official, plans review and construction inspections for fire safety systems in state buildings, provide assistance to local building and fire code officials, and respond to complaints and questions from private citizens. Many of Virginia's larger, more populous localities have their own local fire official. Questions or complaints in those localities should be directed to the [local fire official](#).



Virginia State Fire Marshal  
Charles E. Altizer

There have been some recent changes to the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. Two key changes are:

**307.5 Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

This prohibition is to help avoid the potential for hot embers from falling from the fire box onto the combustible surface such as a wooden deck or balcony. The 10 foot separation is required to lessen the chances of igniting combustible walls, and balcony above, in the event there's a flare-up from starting the cooking fire or from a grease accumulation. The exceptions are in recognition of the occupant's level of control and lack of exposure to others along with the added protection of sprinklers.

**307.5.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices.** LP-gas burners having a LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds (1.14 kg) [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity] shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exception:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.

This section restricts LP-gas burners to the small tabletop grills. These restrictions are based upon a series of multi-family building fires that provided sufficient justification to establish the restriction.

Click on the title below for which you would like more information.

1. [Programs of the State Fire Marshal's Office](#)
2. [Explosives Permit and Blaster Certification Information](#)
3. [State Fire Marshal Regional Offices](#)
4. [Local Fire Officials](#)
5. [Local Fire Official Certification Information](#)
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For more information, e-mail [statefiremarshal@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:statefiremarshal@dhcd.virginia.gov) or call 804-371-7170

### **Related Links**

Virginia Fire Prevention Association  
[www.vfpa.org](http://www.vfpa.org)

Virginia Fire Chief's Association  
[www.sfcav.org/vflsc](http://www.sfcav.org/vflsc)

Virginia Building Code Officials Association  
[www.vbcoa.org](http://www.vbcoa.org)

Virginia Department of Fire Programs  
[www.vdfp.state.va.us](http://www.vdfp.state.va.us)

### **Publications**

[Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code](#)

[Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code](#)

[Recalled Items list](#)