

Open-Flame Wood and Charcoal Burning Prohibited

Gas barbeques or similar enclosed-flame gas appliances may be used on our patios, provided they are placed away from exterior stucco and privacy walls when in use to avoid heat damage and the potential for starting a fire due to our foam-covered-concrete construction. However, Pasco Fire Code states that outdoor fireplaces, including fire pits, and any barbeque vessel used to burn wood or charcoal may not be operated within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material (trees, arborvitae or other plantings) or property line.

This effectively prohibits their use in Mediterranean Villas because our patios are generally only 10 feet deep. This ban has been published in our newsletter in the past. The Board of Directors recently voted to continue to ban open-flame burning from wood or charcoal barbeques and fire pits, but to allow gas-fed or similar controlled-flame barbeque and fire-pit vessels – provided they are placed on patios well away from exterior stucco and privacy walls.

Pellet-fed smokers are strongly discouraged due to the potential for serious damage to our Townhomes, but if used, must be constantly attended and operated with extreme caution.

To report violations, please call the Pasco Fire Marshall's office at 528-4142 or Fire Prevention Department at 545-3426. They **will** come investigate, and, if necessary, issue a citation, so please provide the address where you saw the open burning.