

TECH TALK

October 2009



CAPT



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Green Building 101 – new thinking for Permit Technicians

(This article is taken, in part, from an article written by Scott Caufield from Clackamas County, Oregon.)

I am currently working on guidelines for my division's Electronic Content Management project. So, needless to say, I have been "thinking green."

As I am sure you have noticed, green building is everywhere. In almost every publication, on every website and in a great many discussions related to the construction and permitting industries, green building is a topic that surely dominates. So, what does this mean to us as Permit Technicians?

Here are a few steps you can do now to prepare yourself for the future:

Learn a new language . . .

I am not talking about Italian or Spanish here. Instead, what I am saying is that there is a new language emerging right before our eyes – and ears – called the language of green. Understanding this new language will be valuable to you as your customers begin to speak it more fluently. The time you spend learning and understanding this new language is time well spent!

Prepare for new submittals format . . .

For many of us, the typical building department submittal is very paper-intensive and paper-dependent. Multiple sets of plans, multipart permit application forms and "everything in triplicate" is the norm. But the world of green building and sustainability demands the ability to move away from traditional paper submittals towards an electronic or "paperless" format. I am sure that in the very near future, all or at least a portion of building department submittals will be made electronically. Consider accepting supplemental materials in electronic format for the first review, as this will greatly reduce the amount of paper needed for the initial submittal. Corrections and revisions can be sent at the speed of light – making a simple and significant contribution toward sustainability.

Understand the NGBS (ICC National Green Building Standards) and similar green ratings systems . . .

Knowing and understanding how these green ratings systems work and what they are trying to do will prepare you to communicate more effectively with your customers.

Develop a plan . . .

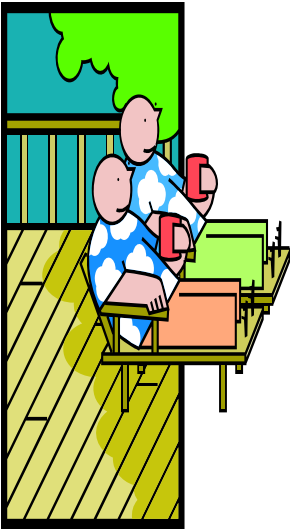
No matter how small or large your jurisdiction, it makes sense to formulate a plan now that will help you and the rest of your staff prepare for the green world that is rapidly unfolding.

So – please join me in "thinking green" and preparing for the new and exciting green world ahead!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ann Freiberg'.

NOVEMBER CAPT MEETING

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
 8:00 am—2:00 pm
 Hosted by City of Wheat Ridge
 Wheat Ridge Recreation Center
 4005 Kipling Street



AGENDA

Building Codes for Building Decks

A hand-picked organization of many of the prominent IRC provisions as they relate to decks.

*Presented by
Glenn Mathewson*

Objectives: Upon completion of this course you will...

- Understand how drastically an existing structure can be negatively affected by improper construction of a new deck.
- Understand the many ways that the IRC does NOT properly address deck construction.
- Know many more questions to ask when receiving plans for deck construction approval.

Annual Business Meeting/Election of Officers

RSVP to:

Darla Brooks

CAPT Program Chair

720-874-6609 or

dbrooks@co.arapahoe.co.us

Registration Fee: \$35.00 cash or check payable to CAPT at the door.

(Registration Fee includes Breakfast, Breaks, Lunch, Instructional Materials and is Non-refundable)

Electrical Safety Recommendations —

Electrical appliances can be fire hazards. Be sure to turn off all appliances at the end of the day. Use only grounded appliances plugged into grounded (three-prong) outlets. If electrical equipment malfunctions or gives off a strange odor, disconnect it and call the appropriate maintenance personnel. Promptly disconnect and replace cracked, frayed or broken electrical cords. Keep extension cords clear of doorways and other areas where they can be stepped on or chafed and never plug one extension cord into another. Don't fasten extension cords with staples, hang from nails, or suspend by wire. Use special insulated tools when working on fuses with energized terminals. Don't use equipment with worn or frayed cords and cables. Plugs should fit securely into outlets, but *never* force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.

(From: Workplace Safety Toolkit)



A sustainable building, or green building is an outcome of a design which focuses on increasing the efficiency of resource use – energy, water and materials, while reducing building impacts on human health and the environment during the building's lifecycle, through better sites, design construction, operation, maintenance and removal.

An illustration of a grey owl with large blue eyes and a beak, perched on a light blue scroll. The owl is holding the scroll with its talons. The scroll contains text about a certification course. The background features stylized, colorful shapes in orange, yellow, and red, resembling flames or abstract patterns.

ICC Campus Online

**2006 IBC Permit Technician
Certification Examination
Practice Course**

\$59.00—Members

\$69.00—Non Members

**Subscription can be
used for 99 Days**

www.icccampus.org

Weekly Wellness Recipe: “Healthy Spinach Casserole”—Ingredients: 1 bag (16 oz) frozen spinach; 7 cups fat-free cottage cheese; 4 egg whites; 1 pack (8 oz) of reduced-fat feta cheese, crumbled; 1 tbsp. onion flakes; and ½ cup grated reduced-fat Parmesan cheese. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Defrost and drain spinach. In a bowl, mix spinach with cottage cheese, egg whites, and feta. Add onion flakes to taste. Pour mixture into a 16 x 12 inch baking dish and sprinkle top with Parmesan. Cook for 45 minutes, until golden brown on top. Serves 12. 80 calories per serving.

TALK OF THE TRADE



Q: Dryer vents always seem to be located right where my clients want their decks. What concerns, if any, should I have in designing around them?

A: You're right, dryer ducts are often run in the floor joist framing, and thus their exterior terminations end up at the rim joist...right where most decks are connected. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC.gov) estimated in 1998 (the most current statistic) that there were approximately 15,600 clothes dryer fires resulting in 20 deaths, 370 injuries and \$75.4 million in property damage, so yes, there are some concerns to have. Dryer fires generally occur from a build up of heat and the presence of combustible clothing lint. Heat, fuel and oxygen—all the ingredients to make a fire. These three ingredients are brought together when exhaust air is obstructed, thus further containing the lint and increasing the internal temperature of the dryer.

In many homes the only visible portion of the dryer exhaust system is the exterior termination; provided a deck has not already concealed it. For an effective, safe and maintainable dryer exhaust system, the air flow must keep moving through, and the lint must be capable of being cleaned, as it will often build up in the back draft damper mechanism. Currently the 2006 International Residential Code refers to the dryer manufacturer for all vent termination requirements (M1502.2). However, what is a more permanent part of the home, the dryer or the attached deck? Modeling the deck installation after the existing dryer, which could be on its last leg, does not make much sense, but luckily dryer manufacturers have the same general requirements.

The dryer duct termination must be accessible for inspection and cleaning. This is generally only a concern when the deck is built over the termination. On an upper level deck, with access below, there should be no problem getting to the termination. A ground level deck, however, creates a bit of a problem. There is no definitive rule for what constitutes "access" and how much clearance must be beneath the deck. This is where common sense comes into play, and a comparison to other code sections is a good start. I would suggest using 36" of clear height beneath the deck as the threshold, as this is an acceptable height for an escape/rescue path beneath a deck from an emergency opening (egress window). If the deck is lower to the ground, then an access panel should be constructed into the deck floor surface.

If the termination is above the deck surface, it may be easily cleaned, but it may also be more easily blocked. A 12-inch vertical clearance is required beneath the lowest portion of the exhaust termination hood and the grade or floor below. This is intended to prohibit a blockage of the exhaust from external sources, such as snow, leaves, or other debris. It also gives the occupant plenty of room to inspect the functioning of the back draft damper and clean out any collected lint.

Designing and constructing a deck so that it is 12 inches below a dryer vent is not always very easy, considering their common location is at the floor rim. The duct could be extended on the exterior of the building so that it turns up, and then out again to the termination. While this would raise the height of the termination, it will also increase the length of the dryer duct. Dryer ducts are limited to 25 feet by the IRC, with each 90 degree bend counting as 5 feet, so this method would only work with a completely exposed dryer duct from the dryer to the termination, so that the total length can be evaluated. Another option is to relocate the duct termination. Whatever the method or design chosen, it is imperative to the safety of the home's occupants that the dryer termination be carefully included in the decision. *(submitted by Glenn Mathewson)*

H i g h l i g h t s

We're on the Web
www.cocapt.com

Congratulations to “Joan Evans—Winter Park/Fraser Building Department” on passing your Permit Technician certification test.

If you have recently passed an ICC exam or have a milestone you would like to share let us know. We would like to acknowledge your success. Please send your name, jurisdiction and type of certification received to: lcarpent@jeffco.us

Permit Tech Spotlight

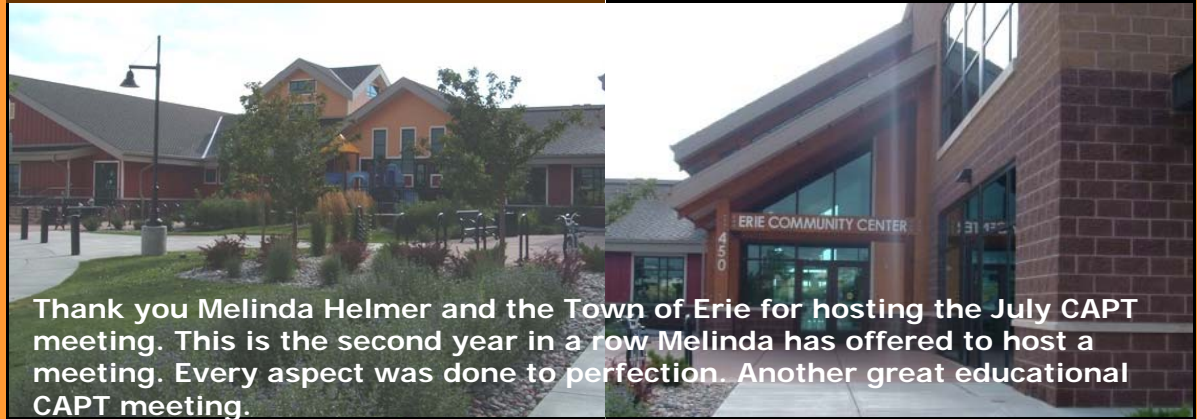


WANTED!

Articles from “you” for this section. We would like to share your jurisdiction’s highlights, your hobbies, dreams, successes, etc with our membership...

Send to: lcarpent@jeffco.us

2009 July CAPT Meeting



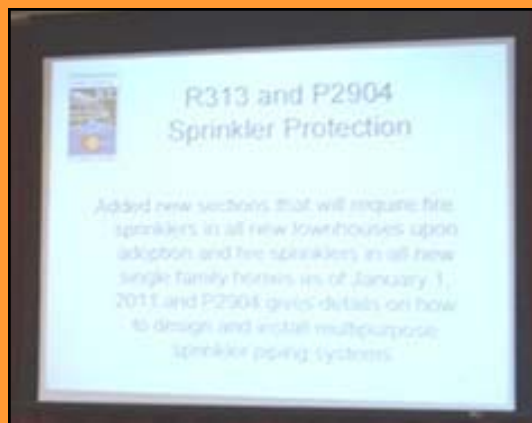
Thank you Melinda Helmer and the Town of Erie for hosting the July CAPT meeting. This is the second year in a row Melinda has offered to host a meeting. Every aspect was done to perfection. Another great educational CAPT meeting.

In the heat of the summer (not really, it was raining and cold), prime vacation time and the midst of one of the most destructive storms on record for several jurisdictions the CAPT July meeting was held as scheduled with great attendance.

The board would like to thank the Colorado Chapter of the ICC for sending Tim Pate/City and County of Broomfield, co-chair of the Colorado Chapter Code Committee and Senior Plans Analyst for Broomfield, to Erie to educate attendees with an overview of the 2009 Significant Changes to the IRC. Many code changes were discussed including the new Carbon Monoxide requirements.



Tim's presentation was followed by the third installment of Glenn Mathewson's courses. July's presentation was titled "Building Codes for Basement Finish". Glenn guided us through many issues concerning basement finishes such as room dimensions, bathroom clearances, ceiling height, lighting, ventilation, fireblocking, plumbing, emergency escape and rescue openings, window wells, smoke alarms, combustion air openings, venting systems, access, HVAC and drywall. As always Glenn was exceptional and we look forward to his fourth installment on decks at the November 09 meeting.



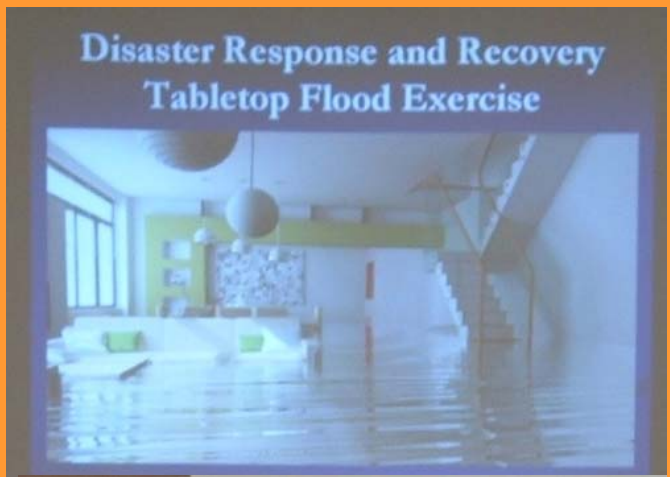
2009 Sept Capt Meeting

Thank you Kristy Shutto, Melissa Mackey and the City of Wheat Ridge for hosting the September meeting.

Larry Trumble, Plans Examiner II for the City of Thornton, and Rick Davis, Chief Building Official from the City of Northglenn, presented a program on "Post-Disaster Safety Assessment for Permit Technicians".

The afternoon program was presented by Bob Wold with the Colorado Division of Emergency Management. Bob had each of us play a role making us aware of how each sector would respond to a disaster from beginning to end.

This meeting was very helpful in teaching us how important a Permit Technician would be if and when a disaster strikes.



Kitchen Safety. It is estimated that more than 100,000 reported home fires involve cooking equipment, mostly due to people not paying attention to their cooking. NFPA gives the following kitchen safety tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food. Turn off of the stove if you must leave the area, even for a short period. When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you. When finished cooking, turn off all burners and ovens.
- Know how to use a microwave oven. Read the manufacturer's instructions. Never use an electrical extension cord on a microwave oven. Use only microwave-safe containers to heat food. Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven. Do not leave the microwave unattended. Allow food to cool for a minute or more before you remove it and use an oven mitt. If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out.
- Open food containers slowly. Let food and liquid cool before you eat or drink it. Remember - the contents may be very hot even though the outside portion of the container can feel warm.
- For grease fires at home, always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan as you wear the oven mitt. Turn off the burner. Do not remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.



If you have been thinking about taking the certification test in the future, remember that the 2009 codes will be in effect January 1, 2010.

You have until December 31, 2009 to test on the 2006 codes.

There are 111 Certified Permit Technicians in the State of Colorado.



Baltimore's historic Inner Harbor seaport will be the setting for this year's International Code Council Annual Conference and Code Development Hearings. Online registration is now available and easier than ever.

Take advantage of our quick registration process, receive your email confirmation the same day and save \$10 by registering online.

http://www.eshow2000.com/iccbwi/attendee_home.cfm

"Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk." --Doug Larson

Tid Bit

Throughout cities and on campuses, we see cast iron fire hydrants which are connected to the public water supply for use by the fire departments for fire suppression. Have you ever heard them referred to as fire plugs? In the 1800's in the City of New Orleans, underground hollowed-out cypress logs were used to supply water for fire suppression. When a fire engine responded to a fire (the equipment at that time was either a hand drawn pumper or steam fire engine), the firemen would either know the location of the logs or refer to their map for location. They would then dig down to the pipe and with a hand auger, drill a hole in the log. Water from the log would fill the hole, and the fireman would place their suction lines from the engines into the water-filled hole. This was their source of water for fire suppression. When finished, they would take a wooden plug and place it into the hole in the log to stop the flow of water. Thus the name "fire plug."



Colorado Chapter of the International Code Council Meeting Announcement

Date: October 16, 2009
Location: Westminster/Broomfield

Visit: www.coloradochaptericc.org for meeting agenda, map and information.



ICC CONTACTS

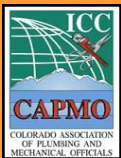
1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233)

Web address: www.iccsafe.org

International Code Campus:

www.icccampus.org

eNews - The International Code Council's award winning electronic newsletter, distributed monthly, keeps members and interested parties up to date with International Code Council programs and relevant industry activities. Read the current issue at www.iccsafe.org/news



Colorado Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials

Sam Dardano
President
(303) 441-4283

dardanos@ci.boulder.co.us

Next meeting Thursday, November 19,
2009



Fire Marshal's Association of Colorado

Rob Geislinger
President
720-274-3704

rgeislinger@parkerfire.org

www.co-fmac.org

CAPT LIBRARY

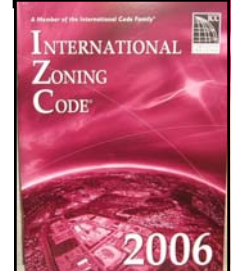
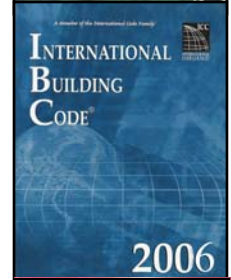
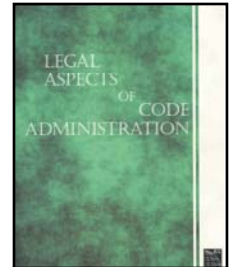


- 📖 2006 International Building Code
- 📖 2006 International Zoning Code
- 📖 2002 Legal Aspects of Code Administration
- 📖 2002 Legal Aspects Workbook
- 📖 Basic Code Enforcement
- 📖 VHS Video/World Trade Center: A Modern Marvel (1973-2001)
- 📖 VHS Video/The Quiet Heroes
- 📖 DVD People Helping People

Study Materials available for checkout to CAPT members.

Contact:

Leslie Carpenter at lcarpent@jeffco.us or 303-271-8287 if you would like to check out materials from the library.



Excellence is not a skill it's an Attitude

How to Become a Certified Permit Technician

Books needed for the test

- 2006 IBC (chapters 1-3, 6, 12 and 34)
- 2006 IZC
- 2002 Legal Aspects
- Basic Code Enforcement 8th printing

Additional Study Material

- 2006 Permit Technician Study Companion
- ICC Campus Online Course

Exam Details and Fees

- \$180.00 computerized
- 60 multiple-choice questions—
- Open Book—2 hour limit
- General Administration 39%
- Legal Aspects 22%
- Plans and Documents 25%
- Zoning and Site Development 14%

Number to call to schedule an exam
1-800-275-8301

<http://www.iccsafe.org/certification>