



BFP News and Views

A Publication of the Building Division and the Fire Prevention Bureau

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2013

www.clarkcountynv.gov

E-mail: annak@clarkcountynv.gov

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IN ADDITION TO INSPECTING NEW CONSTRUCTION, THE CLARK COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT HAS INNOVATED MANY OTHER SERVICES THAT HELP TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF THE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN WHICH OUR CITIZENS AND VISITORS LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY.

CCBD Embarks on New Innovations for a Safe-Built Environment

As local builders and designers have innovated to manage their costs to meet current financial challenges, Clark County Building Department has also made innovations, developing and adjusting various services to meet their customers' needs. Some have been in effect since last year but we continue to enhance the services without sacrificing our mission of protecting our citizens and visitors.

- E-Plans allow customers to save time and money by submitting several plan types over the internet;
- E-Permits allow customers to obtain certain permits over the internet without coming to the office;
- Providing second opinion by supervisory staff of inspections or plan reviews within 24 hours of request by

owner-builders and developers;

- Greater than 99% of inspections completed within 24 hours of request;
- Saturday inspections of residential projects are available upon request at no additional charge;
- Clark County Building Department's ISO grade of 1 for commercial rating and 2 for residential: every five years the Insurance Services Office, Inc. analyzes and grades building departments on a 1 -10 scale with 1 being the best, lowering home insurance rates;
- International Accreditation Service (IAS) accreditation ensuring best practice applications and professional services;
- Amnesty, allowing owner-

builders to apply, pay for and receive permits for construction built without a permit and waiving the "Work Without a Permit Fee;"

- Over-the-counter plan reviewers responsible for processing all permit applications, plan corrections and plan revisions, eliminating the need for customers to move from counter to counter;
- Expedited Plan Review for a fee, allowing builders to have their plans reviewed without waiting;

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2012 Code Amendments Adopted by Clark County Commissioners

- 2012 International Building Code - IBC
- 2012 International Residential Code - IRC
- 2012 International Energy Conservation Code
- 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code
- 2012 Uniform Mechanical Code
- 2011 National Electrical Code
- 2012 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/depts/development_services/Pages/codes.aspx

These 2012 amended codes will be effective July 5, 2014 and all permit applications for all projects, including Standard Plans submitted on or after July 7, 2014 must be designed in accordance with the newly adopted codes.

For applications submitted on or before July 3, 2014 reviewed under current codes, permit must be obtained on or before January 1, 2015 or the application shall expire and a new submittal shall be required in compliance with the newly adopted codes.

CCBD's Innovations and Improvements (Continued from Page 1)

- Detailed handouts and how-to guides;
- Quarterly town-hall meetings held to share feedback with customers;
- Weekly audits and surveys in which supervisors phone customers requesting feedback about our customer service performance;
- Resort Inspections, assuring resort hotels are safe and building code compliant which helps to ensure visitor safety and long-term economic benefits to the community;
- Facility Permits, allowing resort hotels to make code-compliant repairs and modifications quickly without unnecessary delays due to code enforcement;
- High-rise Life Safety Testing Program, ensuring as-constructed life safety systems remain operational and comply with their approved designs for the life of the building;
- Reduction of the number of required plan reviews for fences, pools, temporary power poles, fire alarms and communication towers;
- Resident Inspector Program expedites large construction projects by stationing county inspectors on job-sites full time to inspect completed work within minutes of its completion rather than the next day, saving significant time and money;
- Reduction of the number of required Supplemental Permits allowing minor work to be processed as a plan revision saving our customers time and money;
- Staff regularly interacts with industry and professional organizations to exchange ideas, information, and innovations to learn and stay abreast of changing practices and technologies in a very dynamic and volatile industry;
- Construction Services: a one-stop, virtual department combining the online services of the Building Department, Comprehensive Planning, Fire Prevention, Public Works and Water Reclamation to allow our customers to monitor and manage online the government interactions with their construction projects.



FBP Guideline on Portable Fog Effects Now Being Used Also by Out of State Jurisdictions

Three years ago, Chemical Engineer Robert Williams, was in a major show and noticed that the theatrical fog used for effects was rolling out into the audience. He knew that the evaporated liquid nitrogen from the fog could potentially decrease the oxygen level of breathable air in the theatre. Williams then spoke to the venue's engineering consultant and requested that they conduct oxygen monitoring during the rehearsals. The monitoring demonstrated that the oxygen levels near the stage were below the OSHA breathing air minimums. CCFD then required oxygen sensors to be installed near the audience to ensure that if the oxygen level dropped, the fog effects could be stopped, and, if necessary, the theater evacuated. Since then, such engineering controls to prevent

low oxygen situation are very much in place in Las Vegas theaters and night-clubs.

A couple of years later, a guideline was developed for small event planners, and stage effects companies who requested to be able to rent fog machines without the extensive testing and engineering of the larger permanent installations. This guideline provides charts specifying how much fog effect cryogen can be used in a room of a given volume. To obtain this "All Venues Portable Fog Effects" permit, the customer signs a statement agreeing to adhere to the

allowable amount of fog effects for a given room size based on the guidelines charts.

Dade County in Miami as well as the Fire Department in Atlantic City have now followed suit by using this same CCBD-FPB guideline. With the expertise and intuitiveness of our staff like Robert Williams, Clark County may be at the helm of the national fire safety sector. To quote him, "I think it is entirely possible that we may be ahead of our major resort city competitors when it comes to recognizing and controlling the potential adverse effects of theatrical fog."



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A Well-Attended All Hands Meeting

The all hands meeting held on Wednesday, October 9th, was well-attended by both Fire Prevention and Building Division. Director Ron Lynn welcomed back returning employees and new employees to the department, including Assistant Director Sam Palmer.

Ron made a few important announcements such as the live access to Clark County programs which will soon be available to

Fire Prevention Inspectors. He also reminded everyone to be safe out there and to watch for each other as we observe Fire Prevention Week on October 14-18, 2013.

The Deputy Fire Marshal position is now open and posted on the Job Opportunities page. Educational classes are being set up. Webinars will be provided often and training classes on approved 2012 building codes will begin in

February 2014. Fire Codes training for the 2012 IFC will also roll out in March 2014.

Ron announced that the annual Holiday Party will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 from 11:00 to 2:00 pm. The party is open to all employees and their families, and will be held at the bullpen/presentation room. Santa will visit the children at 1:00 p.m. to distribute candies and stuffed toys.



Meet Our New Assistant Director

The department is pleased to welcome Sam Palmer, P.E., P.Eng., on board as our new Assistant Director. Sam joined us on September 30, 2013 and is located down the hall from Director Ron Lynn, Sr. Deputy Fire Chief Girard Page, and Assistant Director Greg Franklin. He is working closely with senior management to get tuned in to his new position, doing the rounds with staff in the various work groups, as well as going out into the field with both the Building and Fire teams.

Although Sam is new to the department, he has lived in Clark County for 45 years and brings to us over 30 years of local engineering/

construction experience. He holds a B.S. in Geological Engineering with a minor in Environmental Studies from UNR and a MBA from UNLV. He is a registered Professional Engineer both in the U.S. and Canada and also maintains several ICC special inspection certifications.

Sam was the Western Operating Group Manager for the past 12 years at Terracon Consultants, and prior to that he was the Regional Manager for Kleinfelder, both of which are engineering/science consulting firms.

Additionally, Sam was just reappointed by Governor Sandoval for another three-year term on the

Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. His previous professional society involvement includes being the Past President for ACEC of Nevada; ASCE; ACI, and ACIA. He is also a member of the UNLV College of Engineering/Civil Advisory Board.



The Clark County Management Academy

Clark County designed a program that provides a venue for County employees who demonstrate leadership skills so that they may acquire further training and exposure to exceptional management practices. Known as the Management Academy, the 8-week program consists of classroom discussion, self-study, action learning activities, and interaction/networking. In this time frame, the participants are given a better understanding of the formal and informal processes that drive County government.

A significant goal of the Academy is to transfer knowledge of current leaders of the County who are invited to facili-

tate the discussions and share their expertise. Fifteen competencies are integrated in the program coursework where participants choose their specific competencies for development through self-study. Completion of the program gives the participants a whole new perspective and a deeper understanding of their own leadership capacity.

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.”

Plutarch— The Greek Historian



Congratulations to Our Graduates of the Management Academy

Ed Kaminski, our Fire Protection Engineer, is also currently the Director of Training for the Fire Prevention Association of Nevada. A graduate in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering, Ed also earned his Masters of Engineering Management and is a Registered Professional Engineer in five states.



Shurnice Coleman, IT Systems Tech, is very excited about the new learnings on leadership and management that she acquired from completing the course at the Management Academy. Shurnice is now more cognizant of her own skills and how she can use them to better contribute to the County.



Kurt Gottschalk has been with Clark County for 22 years. Currently, he is the supervisor for the West Side Fire Inspectors. Management Academy was a great learning experience for him. The networking with other employees in the program gave him a good perspective of how leaders evolve in any organization. He would recommend this program to anyone.



Management is efficiency in climbing the ladder of success; leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall.”

Stephen R. Covey

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New and Returning Staff on Board

Ibea Allen, Building Permit Specialist II has also rejoined the Clark County Building Department in August, 2013. Ibea worked for the past 2 ½ years for the Nevada State Welfare Division. Prior to her position with the Nevada State Welfare Division, Ibea was employed with Clark County Zoning as a Zoning Plans Examiner.



Danna Burris, Building Permit Specialist II, has been reemployed with the Clark County Building Department as of September, 2013. For the past 2 years, Danna has been working for the Las Vegas Justice Court as a Court Compliance Officer. Prior to her position with the Las Vegas Justice Court, Danna was employed with Clark County Zoning as a Senior Planner.



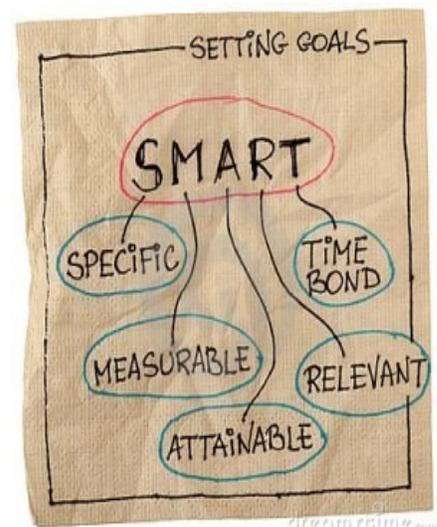
Holly Caplinger, Office Specialist, was a Las Vegas 2012 Hospitality Guru while working in the famous Chapel of the Flowers before joining the Building Department in September 2013. She is a very customer-oriented person and Clark County takes pride in having people like Holly.



Russell Mora, Plans Exam Specialist returned to the Clark County Building Department in September, 2013. Prior to rejoining the CCB, Russell was employed by the Clark County Water Reclamation Department. Russell has expressed his excitement to be working with his past customers and the staff in the Plans Examination Department.



Pam Hatty, the new Office Services Supervisor, started with the Building Department on September 30, 2013 under the supervision of Ellen Quiroz. Pam has been working for the County since 1999 when she started with the Family Court Division. Four years later, Pam was promoted to Administrative Secretary in the Civil/Criminal Division of the Court. In 2007, she went over to the Fire Department as an Executive Assistant to Fire Chief, Bertral Washington. In her current role, Pam supervises the Finance and Intake Division of Fire Prevention.



Time Management—Putting First Things First

Stephen Covey, in his inspiring and life changing book “the 7 habits of highly effective people” asks the question: “what one thing could you do (you are not doing now) that if you did on a regular basis, would make a tremendous positive difference in your personal life?”

It does not have to be a huge thing. Neither does it have to be something that requires a huge investment of time, energy or resources on your part. It just has to be something that you can do consistently.

You will discover that you will eventually be doing more of that one thing than you could have thought possible when you started. Over time, it will make a huge difference. Stephen Covey further adds that “it’s usually not the dramatic, the visible, the once-in-a-lifetime, up-by-the-bootstraps effort that brings enduring success. Empowerment comes from learning how to use this great endowment in the decisions we make everyday.”

Quoted from: <http://www.motivation-for-dreamers.com/time-management-skill.html>