



BFP News and Views

2014 Second Quarter Issue
April-May-June

A Publication of the Building Department and Fire Prevention

www.ClarkCountyNV.gov

2014 Admin Code Effective July 7, 2014

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The Board of County Commissioners approved the revised Building Administrative Code June 17, 2014, to take effect on July 7, 2014. On this same date, the 2012 Code Series: IRC, IBC, Energy, UPC, UMC, (2011) NEC, and the SPSC will also be taking effect. Standard plans submitted on or after July 7th must comply and be designed according to the new codes and the 2014 Building Admin Code.

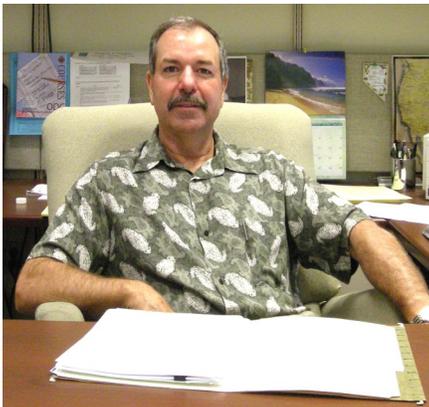
Plans that have been submitted for review under the current code must have an approved permit before January 1, 2015. Otherwise, these plans will have to be resubmitted to comply with the newly adopted codes.

In brief, the highlights of the new Admin Code are:

- New Plans Exam programs such as the Customer Driven Consultant Services, Permit Now, and the Alternate Plan Review Pro-

grams, were added to the Code.

- Corresponding fees for above were also included. All other fees remained the same.
- Addition of the FAB-S Agency as authorized for steel fabrication in non-approved facilities.
- Reduced permitting requirements for low-voltage installations.
- Minor revisions and updates included throughout.



Plans that have been sub-

Greg Franklin Retires

Greg Franklin, the Assistant Director of the Clark County Building Department and a Certified Building Official, is retiring after almost 30 years of devoted service to Clark County. His last day of work with the County is July 14, 2014. In his role as Assistant Director, he managed the Plans Exam, Engineering, Inspections, and Administrative Code Enforcement Divisions of the Department. Greg joined the Building Department in Clark County in 1985.

Greg has served as the President of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the International Conference of Building Officials. He also served on the Building Official Certification Committee and the Education Committee of the International Code Council.

Greg founded and developed the ICC-EduCode Program, a nationally recognized educational seminar designed for building code professionals, serving as its chairman for the first seven

years. The week-long seminar is attended by national and international code professionals and is recognized as the premier code technology presentation in the United States. It currently nets in excess of \$125,000 annually for the local chapter, allowing for the membership to attend national business and code development programs; provide sponsorship of local pool safety programs; and provide sponsorship of four collegiate scholarships to local students pursuing

The HIGHEST REWARD for man's toil is NOT what he gets for it, but what he BECOMES BY IT.

John Ruskin

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Fire Prevention Ensures Safety at the American Ninja Warrior Show

Did you know that...? This NBC show originated from the Japanese program “Sasuke” meaning **excellence**. American Ninja Warrior has nothing to do with ninjas or warriors but much the same flavor as the Greek concept of “arête” (or excellence of any kind), the goal of the show is excellence in competition.



Over the weekend of June 13th, 2014 NBC's American Ninja Warrior returned to Las Vegas to film its season finale. This show was centered on a group of finalists who compete for the title of American Ninja Warrior, America's ultimate athlete. The contestants are filmed as they attempt to navigate a series of obstacles in succession.

Fire Prevention was responsible for all fire code enforcement and ensuring that all individuals and groups are within compli-

ance of the fire code. Some of these responsibilities consisted of permitting an 80 x 40 tent, multiple generators, flame effects, ensuring continued emergency vehicle access during the event, audience proximities, egress and access around tent and proper procedures during fueling of generators. This required multiple trips to the site over a series of 7 days, with the major focus on flame effects. Flame effects consisted of 8 Flame Projectors, 3 accumula-

tors and 3 60-lb bottles of propane. The flame projectors were secured around stage 2 and were set off as the competitors completed each obstacle.

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Electric Daisy Carnival



This year's Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) took the event to a completely new level. As always, the Fire prevention Bureau was heavily tasked with plan review, organization, and inspection requiring endless hours of preparation and a lot of boots on the ground all three days of the event. EDC is a pyro- and flame-effect-heavy event that requires constant coordination with technicians, show organizers, and prevention personnel. To many, this would seem an overwhelming task, but with years of experience handling this amazing spectacle, Deputy Fire Marshal Donna Starkes and her team of plans reviewers and inspectors, lead by Fire Inspectors Joseph Souza

and Martin Casillas, carried it off smoothly.

With nearly 140,000 attendees per night and constant flame and fire-works, FPB personnel have their hands full ensuring the performances go off without a hitch. Due to the nature of this event, inspectors and plans reviewers are often required to think on their feet and find the safest code-compliant methods for 8 stages and numerous flame-art pieces.

In addition to the stages and flame art, there is a full fireworks show nightly at 2:30AM. This year was the first time a “Chase” was ever performed in the United States by Grucci Pyro-

technicians. Because of the unique and dynamic nature of this effect, which involves an almost complete ring of fire-works around the entire Las Vegas Speedway, Prevention personnel had to be vigilant to provide extra safety measures throughout the night.

Fire personnel remained at the EDC until sunrise all three days and also assisted Fire Suppression by driving the two Mobile Command Posts to and from the Speedway.

A huge salute to Fire Deputy Marshall Donna Starkes and her team!

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Summer is Here! Drowning Prevention Efforts by Clark County

Clark County hosted a kick-off event last April 1st at the Wet n' Wild Water Park for the 'April Pools Day' Drowning Prevention which is spearheaded by the Southern Nevada Child Drowning Prevention Coalition. Clark County and local cities take turns hosting this event to promote drowning prevention during spring and summer months when swimming pools are in the highest use in the Las Vegas Valley. Personnel from the Clark County Fire Station 34 conducted a mock drowning and rescue demonstration for media showing how quickly accidents can occur around any body of water.

"Water is very attractive to young children," said Building/Fire Official Ron Lynn, Director of the County's Department of Building & Fire Prevention. "You need to

have appropriate barriers in place to protect children from gaining access to pool areas. These barriers include fences, gates, door alarms and pool covers. You also want to make sure kids can't crawl through dog doors to get near water or use tables and chairs to climb over fences."

Most drowning victims are 4 years old or younger. The majority of drowning deaths occur in the family pool, with 70 percent of incidents occurring between 2 and 8 p.m. The Southern Nevada Health District reports 40 submersion incidents in 2013 involving children 14 years old or younger. Of those, four were fatal drownings. There have been two non-fatal drowning incidents to date in 2014.

Clark County's Fire and

Building Departments are sponsors of the Health District's annual ABC&D's of Drowning Prevention campaign, which emphasizes the need for adult supervision and barriers around swimming pools to prevent drowning:

- A - Adult Supervision
- B- Barriers (fences)
- C- Classes - swim lessons/ CPR
- D-Devices - flotation devices



Commissioner Susan Brager watches as Fire Rescue Operations personnel do a mock rescue demonstration.

Photo courtesy of :
Las Vegas Sun



Clark County Fire Personnel demonstrates first aid rescue on a Wet n' Wild Water Park volunteer. Photo courtesy of Las Vegas Sun.

IAS Accreditation for Fire Prevention

Clark County Department of Building and Fire Prevention (CCDBF) is pursuing accreditation with International Accreditation Services (IAS) for: *Accreditation for Criteria for Fire Prevention and Life Safety Departments - AC426*. This accreditation addresses the general requirements for determination of competence in operations, policies, procedures, performance, and finances of our administration, inspections, plans exam, and records divisions.

Accreditation by IAS conveys formal recognition that governmental fire prevention and life safety departments have demonstrated the technical and administrative competence to implement an effective and equitable system of code enforcement.

The first part of this accreditation process was conducted on June 19th thru 20th, 2014. It involved a pre-evaluation of our existing programs and the readiness of staff to start the accreditation process.

The next step will involve preparing an in-house quality control program/system that fully documents the way the department performs its duties. This manual will then be evaluated by IAS staff and outside professionals to determine compliance to the requirements of the IAS Accreditation Criteria for Building Departments and Code



**FIRE PREVENTION AND
LIFE SAFETY DEPARTMENTS**



Almost 30 years of service, Greg Franklin Retires

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professional engineering or architectural degrees.

As an expert on codes and life-safety systems, Greg is frequently invited to speak in trainings and select classes at the Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) and UNLV.

Greg is a multi-awardee from different organizations like NACO (National Association of Counties) where he was recognized in the High-Rise Life Safety Program. He also received an award from the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) who named Greg as the Execu-

tive of the Year, a recognition for being the best boss by the administrative professionals in 2009.

We, at the Building Department, wish you well, Greg! Your expertise and dedication will surely be missed.

**Retirement
Only Means
That It Is
Time
For a New
Adventure**

IAS Accreditation for Fire Prevention

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Enforcement Agencies (AC2351), IAS Rules of Procedure. Then an in-person audit of our operations will be performed by IAS. Upon successful completion of the audit, accreditation will be granted. Following the initial accreditation, on-going yearly audits of continued compliance of the

department's quality system to AC426 will occur.

Upon completion, Clark County Department of Building and Fire Prevention will become the only third major jurisdiction in the US to be accredited by the International Accreditation Services.

*By: Sam Palmer, P.E.
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Did you know?

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) provides objective evidence that an organization operates at the highest level of ethical, legal and technical standards. IAS is a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation that has been providing accreditation services since 1975.

From the IAS website

**THINK
DO IT THE SAFE WAY
DO IT THE RIGHT WAY
DO IT EVERYDAY**

"If you cannot be on the project each day to check on things, then you should not try and be your own contractor."

By: Robert Metcalfe



Building Codes for a Safe Built Environment Contractor Quality Control Part 3 of the Series

The first article (published in the Nov-Dec 2013 issue) in the series was a brief history of Building Codes. The second article (published in the 1st Q 2014 issue) discussed quality assurance provisions in IBC Chapter Seventeen. This third installment is focused on a local building code modification to the contractor responsibility statement in IBC Chapter 17.

Quality is frequently identified as two distinct activities, with those being quality control and quality assurance. Quality control is invoked at the construction worker level through the contractor. Quality assurance is generally a third party working for the benefit of the project owner and independent of the contractor.

Although the contractor does not perform a quality

assurance function with respect to the building code, the code requires the contractor to acknowledge the special requirements in the Statement of Special Inspections. The contractor responsibility in this instance is noted in IBC section 1704.4. This section was modified with the addition of a second paragraph to require a specific quality control function. The quality control function has been assigned to the general contractor.

Continuednext page

Building Codes for a Safe Built Environment Contractor Quality Control Part 3 of the Series

1704.4 Contractor responsibility Each contractor responsible for the construction of a main wind- or seismic force resisting system, designated seismic system or a wind- or seismic-resisting component listed in the statement of special inspections shall submit a written statement of responsibility to the *building official* and the owner prior to permit issuance. The contractor's statement of responsibility shall contain acknowledgement of awareness of the special requirements contained in the statement of *special inspection*.

At the option of the building official, the contractor shall be responsible for hiring a third party inspection firm approved by the jurisdiction to perform special inspections to act as the contractor's quality control on buildings designated as a *high-rise building* or a complex structure as determined by the *building official*. This third party inspection firm shall not be the same firm as the firm hired by the owner to perform the special inspections in accordance with Section 1704.1.

A resource document, known as Technical Guideline 400 (TG - 400) has been published to assist in the application of the contractor quality control mandate. TG - 400 includes main topics of Purpose, Intent, Scope, Definitions, Responsibilities and Procedure. The code modification targets high-rise buildings and complex structures for application of the quality control actions.

Locally a high-rise building begins with an occupied floor level more than 55 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access. This is a long standing local deviation from the published code which benchmarks 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access as the basis of a high-rise.

The building code does not define what would be a complex structure. Therefore, a definition was provided in the technical guideline as

follows, "A complex is a building or other structure assigned to risk category 3 with an occupancy greater than 5000, risk category 4 (essential facility) or assigned a primary occupancy of A-4 (arena) or A-5 (Stadium). Other structures not covered by this definition may also be considered to be complex structures and subject to the provisions of this TG as deemed by the building official."

The term risk category relates to the nature of the structure and the risk associated with unacceptable performance. The definition implies mostly large structures with the words stadium, arena or a structure with an occupant load greater than 5000. A risk category four structure may be relatively small, such as a hospital, fire station or emergency shelter. The Statement of Special

Inspection is a very important document for both quality assurance and now contractor quality control. Careful attention to IBC Table 1604.5 - Risk Category of Buildings and Other Structures and chapter Seventeen - Special Inspection and Tests is necessary to determine the extent of contractor quality control for a specific building or structure.

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Did you know that....

CCBD & FPB will be conducting a survey of Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URM's) with partial assistance from a FEMA grant administered through the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. URM structures are known to be more vulnerable to the effects of strong ground motion when compared to other common construction types. Two part time Student Engineers along with

members of the Engineering Division will survey potential URM structures by performing visual inspection and attempting to locate reinforcing steel with 'rebar detectors.' This project is an important step in reducing the potential risks associated with earthquake damage to URM's.



Courtesy David Biggs
The facade fell from this unreinforced masonry building.

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