



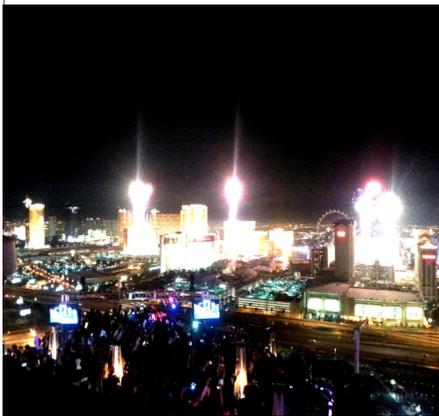
BFP News and Views

A Publication of the Building Division and the Fire Prevention Bureau

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2013 ISSUE

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Fire Prevention at the Strip's NYE "America's Party"



Party lovers will agree that Las Vegas Strip is the place to be on New Year's Eve. Every year, people from all over the world and our own locals trek the long Las Vegas Boulevard with drinks in hand, hats, noise-makers, frills, etc. to watch the greatest show in America – THE Las Vegas fireworks. It is the one and only "America's Party" meticulously planned and choreographed and synchronized to music by Grucci Fireworks, makers of that awesome dancing fire in the sky.

Every year, at exactly 12:00 midnight of New Year's Eve, the fireworks are lit and displayed simultaneously from seven separate rooftops. The Las Vegas Strip properties who participated this year: Treasure Island, Venetian, Caesars Palace, Planet Hollywood, Aria, MGM, and the Stratosphere.

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Building Codes for a Safe Built Environment

(With the release of the 2012 Code Amendments, Ted Droessler, Manager for Engineering, provided us a summary of the evolution of the building codes and how they drive the safety of our construction industry...Editor)

Premise

The premise of the building codes is the establishment of a safe built environment. This is accomplished through application of performance and prescriptive measures contained within the adopted codes and reference standards. These measures include fire safety, structural strength, sanitation, energy conservation, egress, light and ventilation.

History

The history of building codes goes back at least 4000 years. The codes evolved based on locally available

building materials through trial and error construction methods. Many of the provisions within the early codes were enacted based on observed performance and modifications made based on poor performance. Fire and sanitation concerns were significant elements in the early codes.

Modern codes have incorporated reference standards and test methods in an effort to assist architects and engineers to achieve construction documents which meet the intent of a safe built environment. These codes have also retained certain prescriptive measures which can be employed without the need for design professionals. Building codes in the United States have for decades been based on Model Build-

ing Codes published by insurance organizations and associations of building and code officials.

Model building codes provide administrative and technical resources to states and local governments to guide the built environment. Building codes become effective at the time of adoption by a community. Therefore, a model building code is just a reference document until it is made law at the federal, state, or local level. In order for a code to be effective, it must state in clear terms what is necessary to permit, complete, and use or occupy a building or structure. Building codes have formed the basis of community construction laws since 1905 in the United States. The International Residential Code



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CCBD Donates Teddy Bears for Traumatized Kids

For the past ten years and in the spirit of the holidays, employees of Clark County Building Department have been collecting teddy bears and other stuffed animals for the Fire Department to hand to children in trauma due to a fire at home, vehicle accidents, or emergency medical situations. Called “trauma teddies” by firefighters and first responders who hand them to kids, these stuffed animals were found to have a calming effect on traumatized children.

“This is truly an example of the Building Department and Fire Department working together for the good of the children in our community,” said Ron Lynn, the County’s Building and Fire Official and Director of the Building Department. “Our Building and Fire



Prevention inspectors and other staff are generous contributors to this annual effort.”

Fire Chief Bertral Washington also expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Building Department. “This program allows our firefighters and other responders on emergency scenes to provide some extra com-

fort to the children they encounter. We are grateful for the Building Department’s efforts to keep this program active each year.”

About 150 stuffed animals are collected each year and some of the teddy bears will also be donated over the holidays to local hospitals and nursing homes.

By:
Carol Carter, Administrative Secretary
For questions and comments, e-mail:
carolc@ClarkCountyNV.gov



Code Update Training Classes About to Commence

Clark County Building Department is hosting 2011/2012 code update classes starting January 28, 2014.

CCBD staff have been scheduled to attend the classes by their supervisors. The classes are also open to the public by reservation. Please contact Wes Walters at (702) 455-0557 or hww@ClarkCountyNV.gov to make your reservation. The classes will fill quickly so make your reservations now. All classes will be held at the Building Department Presentation Room.

By: Brenda Thompson, Manager, Building Inspections. E-mail: bat@ClarkCountyNV.gov

CLASS	DATE	TIME	COST to ATTEND for PUBLIC	CEUs
2011 NEC Code Update				
<i>Randy Hunter: IAEI</i>				
Local amendment to the 2011 NEC	Jan. 28, 2014	7:00 am – 9:00 am	\$0	No
2011 NEC	Jan. 30, 2014	7:00 am – 11:00 am	Not open to public	Yes
2012 UPC/UMC Code Updates				
<i>Maria Sol Alba: IAPMO</i>				
UPC	Feb. 4, 2014	7:00 am – 10:00 am	\$40	Yes
UMC	Feb. 5, 2014	7:00 am – 10:00 am	\$40	Yes
2012 UPC/UMC Local Amendments	Feb. 6, 2014	7:00 am – 9:00 am	\$0	No
2012 IBC/IRC Code Updates				
<i>Dough Thornburg & Steve Van Note:</i>				
IRC	Feb. 11, 2014	7:30 am – 10:30 am	\$40	Yes
IBC	Feb. 12, 2014	7:30 am – 10:30 am	\$40	Yes
2012 IBC amendment	Feb. 13, 2014	7:00 am – 11:00 am	\$0	No
2012 Pool Code/Amendments				
<i>Wes Walters: CCBD</i>				
Day 1	Feb. 18, 2014	7:00am – 10:00am	\$0	No
Day 2	Feb. 19, 2014	7:00am – 10:00am	\$0	No
2012 Energy Code Training				
<i>Ken Baker: K Energy</i>				
Residential Provisions of the 2012 IECC	Feb. 25, 2014	8:00am – 12:00 pm	\$0	Yes
Commercial Provisions of the 2012 IECC	Feb. 26, 2014	8:00am – 12:00 pm	\$0	Yes

Clark County Building Department Now Accepting Credit Card Payments

After much customer anticipation and hard work by our IT Division, we are now accepting Visa and MasterCard payments at the Permit Issue and Plan Submittal counters. This is an expansion to the service already provided at Field Services and the Records office.

Although this added service is sure to benefit the Permit Center customers, it comes with certain restrictions.

The Building Department collects taxes and development fees on behalf of several departments and agencies. Financial institutions assess fees for each credit card transaction which may not be passed on to the receiving entity. Consequently, the Building Department will only al-

low credit card payment for Building Department fees. Samples of the fee types accepted and not accepted are as follows:

Fee types payable by credit card:

- Permit Fees
- Plan Review Fees
- Revision Plan Review Fees
- Inspection Fees
- Administrative Fees
- Code Book Sales

Fee types NOT payable by credit card:

- Transportation Tax
- Traffic Mitigation
- Endangered Species Mitigation (Tortoise)
- Park Taxes

- Water Usage Fees
- Public Facility Needs Assessments

Additionally, contractors wishing to purchase permits using a credit card must have a company credit card. Personal credit cards will not be accepted for contractor issued permits but may be used to pay for revision fees and/or single family residence permits where the legal owner is present and using his/her card.

There will be no minimum transaction fee amount and the maximum charge is \$5,000.00.

By: Kim Shepherd-Dryden, Assistant Manager for Permit Applications. For questions and comments, e-mail: KDS@ClarkCountyNV.gov

IAPMO's Certification Process for Product Listing

IAPMO's Standards Review Committee facilitates the development of IAPMO Guide Criteria (IGC) and is responsible for approving these documents prior to publishing. These IGCs are standards developed by IAPMO R&T (Research & Testing) when a manufacturer wishes to certify a product for which an industry standard does not yet exist. These standards are carefully drafted to include rigorous requirements ensuring all applicable material, performance, and health and safety issues are addressed.

IAPMO's Product Certification Committee reviews all products submitted to IAPMO R&T for certification to ensure they are compliant with applicable standards and codes. Only if found compliant does the PCC make the decision to grant a listing to such products.

Both of these committees consist of officials representing jurisdictions across the United States and Canada. The committees meet once per month and each plays a vital role in IAPMO R&T's certification process. The code expertise that the committee members bring adds credibility and supports the integrity of IAPMO R&T's listings.

The Uniform Plumbing Code and Uniform Mechanical Code by IAPMO are adopted by all jurisdictions in Southern Nevada. Clark County ensures the safety of its citizens by requiring that all plumbing and mechanical systems are installed and designed to the Uniform Plumbing Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code. The UPC, UMC, and recognized product standards and product certifications help maintain and protect the health and

safety nationally, internationally and the citizens of Clark County.

For more information, you can go to their website: <http://www.iapmort.org>

This article courtesy of:

Jordan Krahenbuhl who is a member of IAPMO's Standards Review Committee and Product Certification Committee. He attends meetings at IAPMO's headquarters in Ontario California once a month representing Clark County Building Department. Mr. Krahenbuhl is currently the Building Plans Examiner Specialist for Plumbing & Mechanical and has been with CCBd for 26 years. For questions or comments, please e-mail:

jkk@ClarkCountyNV.gov



Building Codes For a Safe Built Environment (Con't from Page 1)

(IRC) is an example of a model building code.

Building codes are also driven by catastrophic events. The Chicago fire in the 1800's resulted in setbacks from property lines to allow for fire/rescue to occur, even if a building collapsed. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake prompted development of structural standards for buildings. After each cataclysmic event, we learn a great deal about how buildings sustain wind, seismic and flood loads and adjust the codes based on performance. This process continues with recent earthquakes in Japan and California and hurricanes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, each time providing insight on where and how to reduce damage and improve performance.

Adoption

A model building code is intended to be adopted as a legally enforceable document and it cannot be effective without adequate provisions for its administration and enforcement. The provisions of Chapter 1 establish the authority and duties of the code official appointed by the jurisdiction having authority and also establish the rights and privileges of the design professional, contractor and property owner.²

A safe built environment is a concept and must be based upon the judgment of the elected officials who adopt as law a set of construction codes. A safe environment is likely to be limited by the effectiveness of the code provisions and the nature of the enforcement methods.

By: Ted Droessler, Manager, Engineering
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¹National Board of Fire Underwriters developed and published the first model building code in the United States.

²2009 International Building Code, page vi, Chapter 1 Scope and Administration

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BFP News and Views

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Fire Prevention at the Strip's NYE "America's Party" (Continued from Page 1)

New Year's Eve is one of the busiest events of the year that pull together the different government and private agencies to keep the Entertainment Capital of the world safe and secure. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, together with several Clark County Departments such as the Building and Fire Prevention Bureau, Public Works, Air Quality, and Fire Department, as well as the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Nevada Highway Patrol, and various emergency service providers – each one of them participating in the event and in the planning which started six months prior to this spectacular event.

New Year's Eve fireworks go through rigorous testing. Besides standard manufacturing quality control, each device is functionality tested to ensure safety.

Craig Meyers, Fire Plans Checker, was sent to Grucci's manufacturing plant and storage facility in Radford, VA to personally get involved in the testing and ensuring these pyrotechnics comply with rooftop requirements. Devices need to be consistent in maximum height, explosive force, and fall-out. These tests are documented and subsequently approved for use at the show.

For the New Year's Eve party, approximately 30 FBP Fire Inspectors were posted in different hotel rooftops to monitor the fire show. Some of them were also posted inside the hotels for indoor firework events. Fire Prevention's Sr. Deputy Chief Page was posted at the Nevada Highway Patrol Unified Command Post to coordinate the dispatch of emergency personnel if necessary. Deputy Fire Marshals Donna Starkes and Kurt Gottschalk provided oversight and supervision of FPB personnel on the East and West Side of the Las Vegas Strip.

There were 314,000 visitors in the Las Vegas Valley over the New Year's holiday, generating an estimated economic impact of \$192.6 million in non-gaming revenue. Hotel occupancy was estimated to be at 98 percent. Over 15,000 total fireworks devices were fired from the hotel rooftops this New Year's Eve. Throughout the entire event, Fire Prevention Bureau demonstrated a service that was beyond measure with its commitment to the safety of our citizens and visitors of Clark County.

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