

To: VBCOA Board of Directors

From: Rick Witt, Director of Regulatory Compliance

Date: July 2, 2010

Subject: Report of Board of Housing and Community Development Activities

I apologize in advance for not being present at the Board of Directors meeting at the end of the month but I will be away on my one week a year vacation.

The 2009 code adoption process is nearing an end and the Board will vote to adopt the 2009 editions of the various codes at its July 26, 2010 meeting. These codes are currently scheduled to be effective on October 1, 2010. Over the past 18 months client workgroups have been meeting and through their hard work have come to recommend consensus approval for many of the proposed changes. The DHCD staff deserves a big thank you for coordinating this effort and ensuring that all parties had the opportunity to discuss and make comments.

Listed below are some of the major code changes and current status as of the last Codes and Standards meeting held June 7, 2010:

- **Residential Sprinkler Mandate for Townhouses**  
The committee voted to carry over this issue to the next code change cycle and requested that the parties involved continue their discussion.  
Therefore, residential sprinklers will not be required in townhouses or single-family dwellings if built in accordance with the IRC.
- **Incentives for Residential Sprinklers**  
The committee voted to approve the incentives for the installation of residential sprinkler systems. A few of the approvals were based on staff correcting the language for consistency.
- **Wiring in Crawl Spaces**  
The committee voted to retain the 2006 NEC provisions for support of SE and NM cable run in crawl spaces.
- **Arc Fault Protection**  
The committee approved a change that would retain the current location requirements for Arc Fault protection devices and not expand installation throughout the house
- **Federally Owned Buildings**  
The committee approved a change to 102.3, which clarified that federally owned buildings are exempt from the code unless federal law requires a permit from the locality.

- **Aboveground Liquid Fertilizer Storage Tanks**  
In response to legislative action this past year, the committee approved a code change, which addresses the installation and maintenance of Aboveground Liquid Fertilizer Tanks. In addition it addresses new use of tanks for the purpose of storing the liquid.
- **Emergency Voice/Alarm and Corridor Rating-Educational Uses**  
The committee disapproved a change that would have required voice/alarm communication systems for all educational occupancies and would have required a minimum of one-hour fire rated corridors regardless whether a sprinkler system was installed.
- **Duct Blaster and Blower Door Testing**  
The committee approved in concept a change that would not mandate blower door or duct blaster testing but would allow contractors to perform these tests. Additionally, there won't be any language requiring submission of these test reports to Building Officials prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

While this is not a comprehensive list of changes it does illustrate the wide range of issues the Board had to consider. I'm sure DHCD staff will update you at the Board meeting on other changes and the proposed code change schedule/process for this fall.