

CODE CONNECTION

FALL 2008



Deputy Director's Corner

I am certain those of you residing in the southern and southwestern parts of the state know about The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, which stretches more than 250 miles from Dickenson to Franklin County.

The journey begins near the Ralph Stanley Museum and Traditional Mountain Music Center in Clintwood, taking one through bluegrass country from the western Blue Ridge Mountains beyond the Appalachian Mountains, and ends near the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum in Ferrum.

A little known fact is that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is one of four state agency supporters of The Crooked Road. Interestingly, the Ralph Stanley Museum, located in the historic Chase House of Clintwood and purchased by the town in conjunction with the downtown revitalization project, was partially renovated with Community Development Block Grant funds, administered by DHCD.

Another destination of interest along The Crooked Road is the Floyd Country Store in Floyd County, with

the Country Store being one of several successful renovation projects in downtown Floyd that has revived the town into a major attraction and bluegrass venue, hosting concerts and jamborees on The Crooked Road.



Jimmy Whitten, who for many years served as the building official for Floyd County and who was recently hired as the building official for Carroll County, will be profiled in this edition of Code Connection. Through collaborative efforts with the business community and local leadership, Jimmy has been instrumental in revitalization endeavors along Main Street in downtown Floyd.

Jimmy visualized and realized the renovation and revitalization of several projects, including the Floyd Country Store, utilizing the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) to rejuvenate the older and historic buildings, and to breath new life into their souls. Having personally visited Floyd, I can also attest to the wonderful homemade raisin cookies, delicious ice cream, and great coffee.

In the state regulatory spotlight, the 2006 code development cycle successfully initiated and utilized a consensus process consisting of various workgroups representing key stakeholders



Emory Rodgers, Deputy Director,
Division of Building and Fire Regulation
Virginia Department of Housing and
Community Development

In this Issue

continues on page 2...

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | SBCAO introduces new staff | 23 | TASO TSU – FAQs |
| 6 | TASO road trip! In the office and beyond | 24 | TASO TCU – New! Improved! Schedules, applications, certifications |
| 7 | DHCD services remain intact as SFMO relocates to VDFP | 25 | TASO BSU – Data Management |
| 8 | Building and fire regulations developed through organized consensus process | 25 | Board and advisory committee activities |
| 10 | Wall braced panel provisions arrive early in Virginia | 26 | Accolades |
| 12 | Local building official involved in agency revitalization projects | 27 | About the IAEI |
| 14 | 2030 challenge update | 28 | Calendar/Upcoming events |
| 16 | SBCAO inspects industrialized buildings in the state and across the country | 31 | Useful links |
| 18 | Manufacturer product recalls, service bulletins, and safety advisories | 31 | Contact information |
| 21 | Curtis McIver's retirement party | | |
| 22 | Sharon Smith departs DHCD | | |

and interested parties. Meeting from Aug. 20 through Dec. 10, 2007, the workgroups vetted more than 200 administrative and technical code change proposals for recommendation to the Codes and Standards Committee of the Board of Housing and Community Development that ultimately created the final regulations.

Staff of the Technical Services Unit (TSU) within the Technical Assistance Services Office (TASO) then provided compilation documents which evaluated each code change proposal based upon its merits or limitations as recognized by the workgroup participants.

Over a five month period, the Codes and Standards Committee convened to review and act upon more than 40 administrative and technical code change proposals which arose from the consensus process, resulting in the approval and adoption of the 2006 Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC), and the related regulations.

Although originally targeted for March 1, 2008, the effective date of the 2006 codes and regulations became May 1, 2008. Because of the high participation and wide success of this workgroup consensus process, DHCD intends to continue this method for the vetting of suggested code changes during future code change cycles in the development of the state codes and regulations.

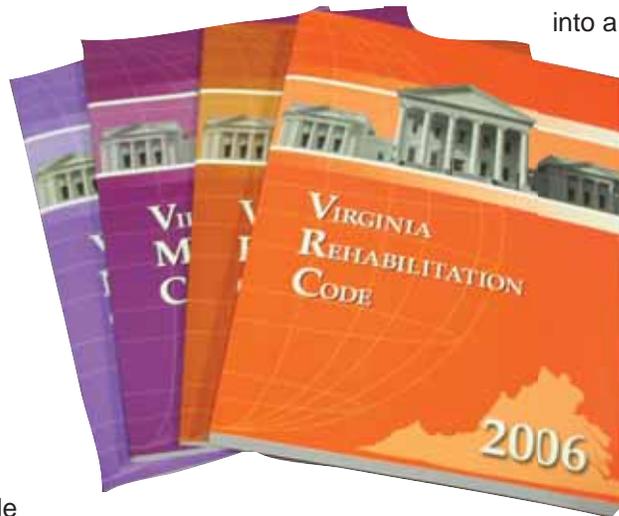
The next several editions of Code Connection will highlight in additional detail many of the 2006 code changes. Although there are numerous and improved administrative and technical code changes for our 2006 regulations, listed below are a few that warrant emphasis:

- **International Residential Code (IRC) 602.10 – Wall Braced Panels:** Virginia has been the leader in reformatting the sections relative to wall bracing, separating the wind and seismic conditions and requirements, incorporating additional details and diagrams, and clarifying plan review and field inspection as well as construction of the systems. Two Virginians, Brian Foley from Fairfax County and Chuck Bajnai from

Chesterfield County, volunteered to tackle this enormous task and have accomplished exemplary results over the past two years. For more information, please refer to the associated article in this edition of Code Connection.

- **International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code (IFC) – In-Building Emergency Communication Systems:** Mandated by legislation in 2004, these communication systems underwent two study groups and several ad-hoc committees to develop

into a consensus code change in the spring of 2007. Owners of high-rise and underground buildings, and owners of large complexes, will be required to install, and to provide access to, conduit and special communication cables to enable the local government to incorporate public safety communications equipment. This provision will ensure that first responders can effectively and safely contact and communicate with 9-1-1 central emergency stations as well as each other.



- **IRC and IBC – Bed and Breakfasts:** A consensus code change approved in the proposed regulations was further refined with a cooperative effort involving the Bed and Breakfast Association of Virginia, the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, and other client groups. The revised change addresses both where the proprietor occupies the bed and breakfast, and where the proprietor lives in another building.
- **Miscellaneous:** Several administrative code changes include provisions to allow building departments to issue building permits for the replacement of siding, windows, and roofs within historic districts; to set forth minimum and flexible requirements for special inspections and qualifications for third party inspectors; and to require 16 hours of continuing education every two years for USBC building code officials and technical assistants.

Although this code update process and regulatory cycle recently concluded, a bevy of other code issues are active on the radar screen for the 2009 code cycle. Five code change proposals will be carried over from the 2006 code cycle, including ambulatory surgical centers, concrete cylinder molds, wildland-urban interface areas, pyrotechnician

certification, and certain periodic training and certification requirements. Other areas of interest and code development include:

- **Green Building Design and Codes** – Paula Eubank of The Technical Assistance Service Office (TASO) shared industry activities relative to green building legislation and initiatives at the local, state and national levels in the summer 2007 edition of Code Connection. Now, the International Code Council (ICC), the American Institute of Architects, homebuilders, and elected local, state, and national leaders are prioritizing the importance of green building. Stay tuned for more information, read up on the issues, and be prepared to offer input.
- **Assisted Living and Day Care Facilities** – Building code officials and health care providers are collaboratively working at the state licensure level and at the national ICC level to craft a new generation of building and fire safety requirements that are more attuned to address the physical and mental needs of the residents that now occupy R-4 and I-1 facilities.
- **One and Two Family Dwelling Units and Automatic Sprinklers** – Numerous stakeholders at the national level are developing incentive packages and devising new fire protection system standards for presentation, consideration, and search for consensus at the 2009 ICC IRC code cycle.

In a joint venture with the ICC, TASO negotiated the publication of the 2006 regulations into Virginia Code series this year. The merger of the two code bodies into a single code volume consolidated and contained the administrative and technical text of both the Virginia amendments and the ICC national model code provisions.

Each code contains the base language as well as the amended language, which is denoted with a double bar in the margin, similar to the change notation within the I-codes, and eliminates the necessity for the separate code publications of the Virginia and ICC national codes and regulations.

For example, the 2006 Virginia Construction Code includes all the Virginia administrative provisions of Chapter One as well as the Virginia amended technical provisions and the ICC technical provisions of Chapters two through 35 of the 2006 International Building Code (IBC).

The relevance and impact of this effort upon code officials, technical assistants, design professionals, general contractors, home builders, and public citizens eases access and use and minimizes costs, thus increasing efficiency and economy.

Individual codes or complete sets are now available for purchase from ICC. The codes may be ordered through the ICC product store and will be processed for shipment to your locality or business upon the first print availability.

During this initial transitional cycle, DHCD will continue to publish the package of individual Virginia regulations, however in a reduced quantity. Each jurisdiction received one complimentary set of pamphlet regulations per code official – building, property maintenance, and fire. As always, the state regulations are available for viewing and downloading from the DHCD Web site free of charge.

To familiarize the local code enforcement professionals with the adopted regulations, the Training and Certification Unit (TCU) of TASO recently operated the 2006 code update training program for more than 4,000 attendees. This training program incorporated several alternate media formats and deliveries, including simultaneous broadcast and live Web-stream, to combine a pre-recorded instructional presentation with an interactive question-and-answer panel.

In collaboration with the Virginia Community College Workforce Alliance, the program was available through online technology to 11 community college facilities dispersed statewide, bringing the training to the code enforcement communities across the state. Minimizing travel distances, this methodology permitted a time and cost savings for the localities.

Upon request, DHCD will gladly share the code change training presentation with any locality or organization seeking additional training for their staff or clients. We also hope that attendees took advantage of the opportunity to provide feedback, comments, and recommendations to further improve our training products and services by participating in the evaluation survey that was e-mailed to each student.

As another initiative this year, TASO TCU implemented specialized training sessions for the revised International Residential Code (IRC) wall bracing requirements. In response to the Virginia amendments to these IRC code

requirements, entitled Virginia EZ Read, the co-creators and instructors Brian Foley and Chuck Bajnai are touring the state to coach plan reviewers and building inspectors regarding the provisions.

Many of the wall bracing training events are also accompanied by training programs held in conjunction with the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) for design professionals, general contractors, and the general public.

The State Building Code Administrative Office (SBCAO) is gearing up for an even more pro-active program of support to our local code officials with the recent employment of new team members, as well as to many other stakeholders, with the recent hires of remotely assigned senior construction inspectors. Within several weeks, staff will be on-board to provide technical assistance in the regional areas of the state.

After 37 years of service, and the June retirement of Curtis McIver, DHCD has employed Clinton Wallace as the new Associate Director of SBCAO. Wallace brings a wealth of experience as a building official from both Ohio and Florida. Wallace and his staff will provide support to DHCD's customers in a readily accessible manner with a can-do attitude.

Also, to fill out the new SBCAO team, we employed Larry Brock from Chesterfield County to oversee the new team of senior construction inspectors.

And finally, as many of you already know, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) transferred to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VD FP) on July 1, 2008 for the enforcement of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC), and other mandated programs for the inspections of existing public and private schools, private college dormitories, state buildings, hospitals, nursing homes, and nightclubs.

DHCD and the SFMO will continue our close partnership and collaborative efforts that have hallmarked our working relationship over the past 30 years on behalf of the code officials and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

I would be remiss for not once again saying thank you to Steve Shapiro for his time, devotion, and dedication to seek, to be elected, and to lead the ICC as its president for the year 2007-2008.

Similar thanks and appreciation should be reiterated for Bill Dupler for his term of service on the ICC Board of Directors.

I sincerely hope that their fellow code officials and peers will follow their example and find it within themselves to continue the Virginia tradition of developing and providing leaders to serve the code communities on the ICC Board of Directors and to seek other leadership opportunities.

In closing, I am most pleased that the reformatted Code Connection has received much positive feedback. We encourage and appreciate your comments and suggestions, and look forward to implementing them into our continually improving publications.

Thank you.
Emory Rodgers



SBCAO introduces new staff

*Clinton Wallace, Associate Director
State Building Code Administrative Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

On May 12, 2008 the Division of Building and Fire Regulation (DBFR) welcomed Clinton Wallace to its staff. Wallace, associate director for the State Building Code Administrative Office (SBCAO), possesses 27 years of code enforcement experience, serving 14 of those years as building official for the cities of Defiance, Ohio and Toledo, Ohio, and most recently for Osceola County, Florida.

"I am really excited to have this position and I feel that I can bring a new energy and a different point of view to this office," said Wallace.

The SBCAO has also added four new positions, two of which are predominately assigned to the Southwest and the Eastern regions. Larry Brock, senior construction inspector II, Valrae Negley, senior construction inspector II, and Richard Potts, senior construction inspector I, have accepted three of the four positions. The fourth position of senior construction inspector I, primarily assigned to the Southwestern area of the state, currently remains vacant.



Larry Brock

Valrae Negley

Richard Potts

Larry Brock comes with more than 13 years of experience from Chesterfield County with an extensive background as both a residential and commercial combination building inspector. Larry supervises the senior construction inspector I positions.

Prior to joining the agency, Valrae Negley was employed by the Louisiana Institute for Building Technology and Safety (ITBS) as a task manager. Assigned to two municipalities in Louisiana, Negley aided the local building department staff with education and field training. Negley offers a wealth of knowledge gained from previous employment with Spotsylvania County, the Town of Warrenton, and Fauquier County, as well as years of experience as a Virginia certified professional code administrator, building plans reviewer, fire protection plans reviewer, fire protection inspector I and II, and amusement device inspector to the field of code enforcement.

Richard Potts hails from the City of Norfolk where he has worked as both a residential and commercial plan reviewer. Potts will be primarily responsible for the Eastern/Tidewater area of the state.

Lorenzo Dyer and Eric Leatherby continue to be an integral part of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) team, both of whom have previously served and assisted many clients for numerous years.

Dyer, senior construction inspector II, offers 15 years of experience with DHCD and provides statewide assistance with the Manufactured Home Safety Regulations.

Leatherby, senior construction inspector II, offers nine years of experience with DHCD and provides statewide assistance with the Industrialized Building Safety Regulations.

Many DHCD clients may have recently met SBCAO staff, including Wallace at either the VBCOA regional meetings or the 2006 Code Update Training sessions. In conjunction with the Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO), the SBCAO is currently making arrangements to attend all Virginia Building and Code officials Association (VBCOA) regional meetings on a regular basis.

In so doing, a major priority for the SBCAO is to accomplish greater accessibility of the office for code officials throughout the state. The objective of the SBCAO is to be an additional resource to the code enforcement community in an effort to assist its clients in the provision of the best possible customer service for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

One project planned for the SBCAO is the development of training modules for manufactured homes and industrialized buildings. This training will define and focus on the roles of the local building department and this office, the SBCAO.

"I would ask for your input regarding any areas of interests and specific needs for this course content," said Wallace. "If you have any ideas that you would like to share, or if you would just like to say hello, please call or send an e-mail to my office."

"The State Building Code Administrative Office looks forward to meeting and working with each of our clients across the Commonwealth in the near future."

The SBCAO staff may be reached at (804) 371-7160. Wallace may be contacted at (804) 371-7161 or at: clinton.wallace@dhcd.virginia.gov.

TASO road trip! In the office and beyond...

*Paula Eubank, Associate Director
Technical Assistance and Services Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

In the last edition of Code Connection, Emory Rodgers introduced the newly formed Technical Assistance Services Office (TASO). Since this initial introduction, TASO has traveled the highways to visit each region of the state, developing relationships with agency constituents and establishing the office as a recognizable entity in the code enforcement community.

To reinforce TASO as an accessible and trusted principal code related services resource, TASO will take to the road again this year, reaching out to jurisdictions and localities throughout the Commonwealth, as well as to affiliated professional code organizations and associations such as the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA), the Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association (VPMIA), the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI), the Virginia Fire Protection Association (VFPA), and more.

During TASO presentations, staff provide an introduction and overview of the office, including the mission, functions, and services. The presentation briefly describes the three units within TASO – Technical Services, Training and Certification, and Business Services. The presentation also provides contact information and a summary of resources and services offered to TASO clients.

Additionally, TASO staff offer support to the organizational meetings they attend, sharing reports on code-related activities at the state and national levels, training opportunities offered through the code academy, and general administrative functions of the state and agency.

TASO conveys information relative to recent discussions and activities of interest of the boards and advisory committees that may affect local jurisdictions, constituents, and stakeholders. TASO staff also answer any questions raised regarding codes, code development, code interpretation and application, and training and certification.

Throughout these conversations, TASO staff will solicit feedback on how the office can best assist the code community and meet their needs. While TASO has received positive response from many local jurisdictions and code

enforcers throughout initial meetings, TASO continues to invite and encourage feedback and recommendations.

“TASO appreciates the opportunity to support any organization’s purpose,” said Paula Eubank, associate director of TASO. “We thank those organizations across the state which have welcomed the team for their invitation to attend, present, and participate with their memberships during these meetings.”

Meanwhile, in the Richmond office between regional road trips, TASO has concentrated on numerous internal activities within each of the three TASO units.

The Technical Services Unit (TSU) continues forward with code development at the national level as well as projecting forward with the 2009 code cycle in Virginia. The State Technical Review Board, staffed by the TSU, hears a continuum of appeal cases brought forth from the Local Boards of Building Code Appeals (LBBCAs) and provides code interpretations arising from local applications of the code.

The Training and Certification Unit (TCU) has largely focused its recent efforts upon the 2006 code change training program, which recently completed its final sessions. While the program experienced great overall success, it was accompanied by several minor complications, which will be translated into a positive direction for future programs. TCU’s immediate projects target increased training opportunities with program/course offerings such as energy, sustainability, and accessibility.

In September, TASO was recently on the road (or in the air, rather) to the 2008 ICC Annual Conference and Final Action Hearings in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“We hope as many of you as possible attended to support and actively participate in the national code development consensus process,” said Eubank. “We also look forward to including additional destinations on the road trip map and meeting each code enforcer, local jurisdiction, and organizational membership.”

Should TASO have not yet reached an organization, or an organization is hosting a special event and is interested in TASO’s attendance, contact TASO at: (804) 371-7140 or tco@dhcd.virginia.gov.



DHCD services remain intact as the SFMO relocates to VDFP

*Paula Eubank, Associate Director
Technical Assistance and Services Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

Effective July 1, 2008, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) and their statewide regional offices transferred from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) for the enforcement of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC).

Previously, the SFMO collaborated with the Division of Building and Fire Regulation (DBFR) to provide technical assistance regarding the SFPC and the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) to building, property maintenance, and fire officials, as well as to other clients across the Commonwealth.

This cooperative collaboration will continue in the future even though the SFMO has relocated, providing an uninterrupted and seamless transition in services and assistance.

In related news, Glenn Dean, previously a team member of DHCD's Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO) has accepted a position in the SFMO as deputy state fire marshal.

Notwithstanding the relocation of the SFMO, DHCD continues its commitment to the provision of high quality services and products, with a concentration on customer relations and assistance. DHCD intends to increase the efforts of the DBFR toward the provision of improved client services to each of the building departments, design professionals, general contractors, home builders, trade organizations, the general public, and state agencies.

To accomplish this objective, the technical staff of the DBFR, the Technical Assistance Services Office (TASO) and the State Building Code Administrative Office (SBCAO), will be available to provide such services and assistance to

accommodate each and every need regarding regulatory building code matters. In addition, the DBFR recently increased their technical staff, including one construction inspector position in the DHCD Southwest/Abingdon office.

The staff will provide code interpretation and application, as well as technical assistance and consultation on building plan review and inspection, and related construction matters that concern all of the division's clients.

DBFR staff also provide administrative and technical support for the Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD), Technical Review Board (TRB), the Building Code Academy Advisory Committee (BCAAC), and the Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee (ADTAC); provides support for the state and national code development and regulatory processes; and provides support, technical assistance, and liaison services to the numerous DHCD clients, stakeholders, associations, and state agencies, in addition to various boards and commissions.



The DBFR issues certifications to the code enforcement personnel of the local governmental entities and independent inspection agents statewide, as well as operates a comprehensive training program associated with those certifications.

The DBFR is also responsible for certain licensure and business functions necessary to the code enforcers and client groups.

The assistive resources offered by the DBFR, however, should not be considered in lieu of local reviews and/or inspections as mandated by the USBC. This assistance aims to benefit and improve the overall capabilities and capacities of some of the more limited, small- to mid-size building departments in their certification categories and professional development.

For example, a local building official may receive an application request relative to a complex construction project for which the official may seek side-by-side assistance from the BFRD in the initial plan review and/or building inspection, in order that the local building official may thereafter possess a greater ability, and occasionally utilize our optional resources in progressing with future projects.

Note:

The contact information for the State Fire Marshal's Office at the DBFR is provided below. While the main telephone number for the SFMO remains the same, the physical and mailing address of the SFMO has changed to:

State Fire Marshal's Office
Department of Fire Programs
1005 Technology Park Drive
Glen Allen, Virginia 23059
(804) 371-7170

Web address: <http://www.vafire.com>
E-mail address: sfmo@vdfp.virginia.gov

The contact information and telephone numbers relative to the four regional offices of the SFMO also remain unchanged as below.

Eastern/Tidewater – (757) 455-3820
Northern – (540) 987-9452
Western – (540) 562-3546
Southwestern – (276) 783-3461

Building and fire regulations developed through organized workgroup consensus process

*Vernon Hodge, Technical Services Manager
Technical Assistance and Services Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

In response to the three-year cycle of code development utilized by the International Code Council (ICC), a nationally-recognized model building and fire code organization, the Division of Building and Fire Regulation (DBFR) regularly assists the state Board of Housing and Community Development in developing and updating Virginia's building and fire regulations.

"With more than eight regulations involved and many different stakeholders concerned with these changes, it is quite a task each cycle," said Vernon Hodge, technical services manager, in the Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO) of the DBFR.

"Every year we continually work on the code change process as it evolves and as the issues become more complex."

During the code change cycle, the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC), the Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations, the Virginia Manufactured Homes Safety Regulations, the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations and other similar regulations, collectively known as Virginia's building and fire regulations, are updated.

DBFR works with the board and stakeholders throughout the process to facilitate the regulation updates, using the most recently available nationally-recognized model codes and standards.

History

"From the first time the USBC was adopted in Virginia in 1973, and the SFPC in 1987, the process for developing the building and fire regulations has been under continuous evolution," said Hodge.

In the past, model codes promulgated by ICC, known as the I-Codes, and the standards created by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have traditionally been incorporated as the basis for the state building and fire regulations, along with other nationally-recognized standards.

Previously, updating the codes required little more than a public hearing for the USBC and notification to every building official in the state. In the 1990's, the process became more comprehensive with the passage of new laws and policies governing the promulgation of regulations and concerning their fiscal impact on regulated parties.

"Building and fire regulations are different in that they rely on nationally-recognized model codes and standards, which have already undergone extensive development and scrutiny," said Hodge.

continues...

In recognition of this difference between typical state regulations and the department's building and fire regulations, state laws governing the processing of regulations were amended in 2006 to permit Virginia's building and fire regulations to be adopted with less analysis and justification than is required for other state agency regulations.

This enabled division staff and the Board of Housing and Community Development to develop a custom-tailored process for the building and fire regulations.

The new process was implemented in the latest cycle of updating the state's building and fire regulations which began mid-year of 2006 and ran through May of 2008. This process was known as the 2006 Code Change Cycle, since the 2006 editions of the I-Codes were used as the basis for the state regulations.

Consensus building

At the heart of the code change process, assuring that those affected by the codes have an opportunity to participate in the process, is the establishment of workgroups under different subject matter of the codes. Once the workgroups were established, DBFR staff prepared packages for each workgroup and facilitated the workgroup meetings, encouraging open discussions and noting suggestions for further refinement of code change proposals.

The workgroups included in the 2006 Code Change Cycle included:

- **Workgroup One** – established to address residential code issues. This group was instrumental in making consensus recommendations on approximately 20 code change proposals considered by the group.
- **Workgroup Two** – established to assess changes to the administrative provisions of the codes. This group successfully gained consensus on approximately 12 of the 24 code change proposals considered by the group.
- **Workgroup Three** – established to evaluate technical code changes to the I-Codes. This group considered more than 40 code change proposals and developed consensus recommendations on more than half of those proposals considered.

The DBFR also established or reconvened several specialized workgroups to consider issues such as in-building emergency communication equipment for emergency responders, sprinkler standards for attics in apartment buildings marketed for senior citizens, and the implementation of a Wildland-Urban Interface Code newly published by the ICC.



Approval process

The process of implementing code changes included publication of proposed regulations, a public hearing, distribution of a "compilation document" containing all proposals and staff evaluations for 30-day review and public comment period, and final consideration of all comments by the Board of Housing and Community Development.

In addition to coordinating all of these requirements, the three workgroups provided input and feedback for the board to make informed and conscientious decisions on the code change proposals submitted during the code change cycle.

DBFR has already begun preparing for the 2009 Code Change Cycle by identifying carry-over issues from the 2006 cycle, building and fire code issues considered by the state legislature, and issues coming to the forefront at the national level.

DBFR will continue to refine the code change process to facilitate more involvement from its client groups and to assure that all perspectives are considered in the consideration of any proposal. While the participating factions and individuals were representative of the stakeholders, DHCD encourages all interested parties and citizens to become involved in the process, even those who have not yet been active in code development.

For additional information on DBFR's code change process and to view workgroup packages, proposed regulations, Codes and Standards Committee packages, and additional information concerning the 2006 Code Change Cycle, please contact TASO within DBFR at (804) 371-7140 or visit the division's Web page at: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/CodeChangeCycle.htm>.

Wall braced panel provisions arrive early in Virginia

*Brian Foley, Contributing Guest Author
Chief Structural Engineer
Fairfax County*

Soon after the adoption of the 2000 International Residential Code (IRC), many jurisdictions in the Commonwealth were caught off-guard by the wall bracing provisions of the new code.

Compared to the previous edition, the new requirements for wall bracing went from two paragraphs in the 1995 Council of American Building Officials (CABO) One and Two Family Dwelling Code, to five pages in the IRC. The amount, spacing, and types of bracing became more stringent due to the merger of seismic and wind requirements.

Many code officials, as well as designers and builders, found Section R602.10 to be complex, unintelligible, and cumbersome to read. Most became frustrated as they tried unsuccessfully to gain an understanding of the text, tables, and figures during those initial months. Some IRC users just ignored the new requirements altogether, anticipating that they would eventually disappear.

With the adoption of the 2003 IRC came the introduction of interior braced walls and a strengthening of the continuous structural panel sheathing method, requiring all wall areas of all floors be sheathed. As the post-Katrina market skyrocketed Oriented Strand Board (OSB) prices, designers and builders began demanding flexibility within the IRC to offer their clients more economical alternatives while still meeting the wall bracing requirements.

If the history of the wall bracing provisions wasn't dramatic enough, flash forward to the Detroit International Code Council (ICC) code hearings in September 2005. During the discussion of proposed changes to the 2006 IRC wall bracing provisions, a significant polarity divided the audience. What ensued was hours of endless testimony with no clear winner.

There was one hero of the battle – Dr. Dan Dolan.

The former Virginia Tech professor, currently with Washington State University, stepped in and agreed to hold peace talks. With a crowd cheering his suggestion, Dolan kept his promise and the first gathering of the warring parties took place in



January 2006. The Dolan Group, as it is affectionately called, has now been meeting regularly for nearly two years.

In a parallel move, the ICC formed its own ad-hoc wall bracing committee, comprised of nearly the same members as the Dolan Group.

The two groups have distinct missions and have evolved to complement each other. The Dolan Group coordinates and analyzes the testing and engineering associated with wall bracing and the ICC committee authors and recommends actual code language.

The far-reaching goal of both groups is to turn the testing results into sweeping code changes that will transform how wall bracing is addressed in the IRC. At the earliest, this may not occur until the 2012 edition of the code; however, the two committees have already greatly improved the existing language that will be considered for the 2009 IRC.

Virginia has been at the forefront of these developments every step of the way. Virginia is the only state to aggressively attend and have representation on both committees.

Chuck Bajnai, chief residential plan reviewer for Chesterfield County, and Brian Foley, structural engineer with Fairfax County, have been working hand in hand with other code officials and engineers from both industry and academia to facilitate the evolution of the wall bracing provisions. In fact, Bajnai is the chairman of the ICC committee.

Code changes approved in Orlando and Rochester and those proposed for the next code cycle will have a large impact on how users of the 2009 IRC will apply the wall bracing provisions.

So why should Virginians wait for the 2009 USBC to benefit? The answer is – they shouldn't!

Emory Rogers of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development proactively commissioned Bajnai and Foley to develop a Virginia version of Section R602.10 of the 2009 IRC, based upon its anticipated language and intent, and subsequently propose an amendment for the 2006 USBC.

Nicknamed the "Virginia EZ Read," the new Section R602.10 represents a considerable change from the 2003 IRC version. The flow of the section has been reconfigured to be more intuitive and to integrate exceptions and hidden footnotes into actual code sections. Some of the other highlights of the Virginia EZ Read are:

- Elimination of inapplicable seismic provisions;
- Substitution of single descriptive explanatory graphic figures for long code narratives;
- Allowance for combination of methods and delineation of those requirements;
- Inclusion of additional figures to describe more complex provisions;
- Elimination of adjustment factors and/or incorporation into tables;
- Expansion of numerical tables to reduce the need for interpolation;
- Allowance for partial credit where panels do not quite meet the minimum lengths;
- Addition of new provisions for angled walls, masonry stem walls, and other problematic areas not currently addressed in the code;
- Elimination of method numbers and replacement with identifiers to clearly recognize bracing methods;
- Expanded continuous sheathing provisions to help users understand its capabilities and limitations;
- Clarification of support and connections of braced wall panels; and
- Incorporation of portal frames, also commonly known as "the APA Details," into the code and which can now be supported by both concrete and raised floors.

Although increasing in length yet again, the proposed Virginia EZ Read is clearer in language and easier to understand, and provides the flexibility that industry has been demanding. For some, learning a new wall bracing section will again take some time, but for the vast majority, understanding the new code provisions that are more descriptive and user friendly should result in an overall time savings.

The Virginia EZ Read does not address every residential design feature or condition; however the proposed amendment is an enormous improvement over the current code language. In fact, many of the improvements made for the Virginia EZ Read will be presented as ICC ad-hoc committee changes for the next code cycle in 2008. It is possible that the 2009 IRC will replicate the Virginia EZ Read rather than the opposite.

To promote additional understanding and practical application of the wall braced panel provisions, the DHCD Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (JPVBCA) provides a specialized training program, "Understanding Wall Bracing," instructed by Chuck Bajnai and Brian Foley, at no charge to active code enforcement professionals employed by a locality.

The Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) is also partnering with the instructors to offer training to design professionals, general contractors, and the public at a nominal fee.

The wall braced panel training program has received positive reviews, and is highly recommended for plan reviewers, building inspectors, design professionals, and general contractors. Register today!

www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Online/



Local building official involved first-hand in agency revitalization projects

Hollie Cammarasana, Public Relations Director
Department of Housing and Community Development



Jimmy Whitten is originally from Illinois, but found living in the small town of Floyd, Virginia, and serving as its building official a unique and rewarding experience.

During the years 2000 to 2008, Whitten served as the building official for the small Virginia town, which is currently undergoing a significant downtown revitalization project partially through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)'s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Until recently, Whitten also acted as the county's only soil erosion administrator.

The immense revitalization project kept Whitten quite active. As the only local code enforcement official for Floyd County, Whitten was charged with the many daily tasks in performing the enforcement responsibilities of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), from the review of construction documents/plans to the issuance of occupancy certificates.

"There is certainly a lot going on," said Whitten. "A lot of older buildings are being turned into spaces for offices, small businesses, and shops; a new hotel and amphitheater are being built; every building downtown will be affected and it will be great for Floyd."

Floyd, which is a haven for many artists and musicians, is quickly becoming a destination for heritage tourists and visitors on *The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail*. As the local economy transitions into one of tourism and arts, Floyd has received \$1,000,000 in CDBG funding for various revitalization projects.

\$700,000 of the funding is being spent to remove blighting conditions, including façade improvements to 14 buildings, some demolition, storm drainage improvements, and more.

The additional \$300,000 is being utilized to create a low-interest revolving loan fund for businesses wishing to create new jobs within the project area.

Plans for the revitalization include the creation of The Floyd Hotel, which is being constructed using green building standards as well as geothermal energy design. Existing trees will remain in place incorporated into the interior of the building.

Additionally, each room of the hotel will offer a theme and be painted by a local artist.

The town is also planning a business incubator, a natural amphitheater, parks and landscaping, sidewalks, public parking, facades, and more through the revitalization.

The community parking lot will connect the hotel with The Village Green, a newly constructed pedestrian retail and business center consisting of 15 to 20 stores and office spaces. Adjacent to the parking lot, a circular walking path having benches and other park-like features will provide additional open and community space, and also will be able to host outside functions, festivals, and concerts.

Also in downtown Floyd, the existing Winter Sun building, which housed a phone machine factory, a clothing business, and a Tex-Mex restaurant, will be converted to an additional retail outlet of approximately 10 shops.

Recently, the historic Floyd Country Store, the oldest venue on *The Crooked Road*, sparked the revitalization efforts by completing an extensive renovation as a centerpiece of



Construction of the Floyd Hotel

The Village Green

The historic Floyd Country Store

the project. At nearly 100 years old, the store has been a central gathering place for the Floyd Community, and draws several hundred local residents each week for a Friday night jamboree.

The timberframe store's revitalization included restoring its use to full-capacity as a country store vending local wares and crafts, a restored 1936 ice cream soda fountain,

continues...

extended stage and upgraded sound system, a new façade, and much more.

However it's been within the last eighteen months that the majority of the planned projects for the revitalization have begun, and as the local building official, Whitten was instrumentally involved in each one. Whitten enjoys seeing the changes being made to his community, and is grateful for having the opportunity to participate in the revitalization and to discover resourceful ways to help move projects along.

"Almost all of the buildings downtown are being brought back to what their original appearances were," said Whitten. "So it's been a busy time."

"Everyone in Floyd is happy to see the downtown area get redone; at lunch time everyone comes outside and walks around; they will really enjoy having the new parking areas, sidewalks, and parks."

Across the street from the historic Floyd Country store, an early 20th century structure previously utilized as a factory, automotive repair shop, as well as a car dealership is undergoing the planning and design phases by a team of developers and architects for a major renovation project. Although the 15,000 square foot building is currently unoccupied, two restaurants previously operated in the lower level of the building.

The proposed renovation of the building will create additional assembly/restaurant, business, and mercantile occupancies on the lower level and upscale residential apartments on the upper level. The original structure of the building consists of concrete masonry block and brick veneer, and the renovation would refurbish the brick façade, affixing wrought iron railings to the residential balconies at the upper level.

While the revitalization efforts are much welcomed, they occasionally provide challenges for those involved in their planning and design. For example, the preliminary review of the design for the proposed apartments revealed several building code challenges.

"The location of the building in relation to the adjacent property lines has been a concern, especially in consideration of the large exterior openings" said Whitten. "However, as the building will include an automatic sprinkler system, I was comfortable that the fire hazard risks are not as great since its use will be primarily residential."

The initial planning and development phases of the town project and public areas required a cooperative agreement with the town officials and property owners to relocate the property line separating the dealership building from the town's property nearer to the building.

Although a deed restriction or stipulation permits the balconies of the residential occupancies to encroach upon the air space of the town property that will be utilized for public parking, this property line became more of an apparent issue during the design phase of the building relative to fire separation distance and the protection of the large exterior openings as required by the building code.

Whitten sought the advice of state officials in the Division of Building and Fire Regulation (DBFR) at DHCD to examine solutions and alternatives.

Emory Rodgers, DBFR deputy director, and Vernon Hodge, DBFR technical services manager, visited Floyd County and met with Whitten and the developer at the project site to evaluate the existing building conditions and to offer recommendations for compliance with the VUSBC.

"This project is a prime candidate for the 'Compliance Alternatives' provisions of our state building code, which permits an evaluation of the major safety components of the existing building and uses a scoring system to determine whether compliance may be achieved," said Hodge. "With the installation of a sprinkler system, the scores should be favorable."

Working through these issues and seeing the final results of inspirational, creative, and innovative thinking is a positive for Whitten.

"It's a wonderful feeling to see a building go up or be re-done; I love what I do."

Whitten obtained his first inspection certification through the Southern Building Code Congress International in 1989, while working for the Florida Power Corporation, where he performed energy audits for the power company, rating speculative homes for builders.

After relocating to Virginia, Whitten became re-certified through the International Code Council as a building code official, building official, plans examiner, commercial building

inspector, residential building inspector, and also as a residential mechanical, plumbing, and electrical inspector.

“When I worked in Florida, you would go out and inspect a home and come back to the office; here I get to see contractors from the start to the end of a project, and I have time to get to know them,” he says.

In fact, residents of Floyd have gotten to know Whitten pretty well also.

“If my garage door is open, everyone knows that I am at home and working on my cars,” said Whitten. “They will

stop by to ask me a question or two about a project they are working on – that’s small town life.”

Whitten recently began another chapter of his professional life as the building official of Carroll County. The residents of Floyd County certainly appreciate Whitten’s devoted tenure and numerous contributions of his outstanding service and will benefit from his progressive insight for years to come. Although he will be missed in Floyd County, his talents are greatly welcomed in Carroll County. Congratulations and best wishes, Mr. Whitten.

2030 Challenge update

*Paula Eubank, Associate Director
Technical Assistance and Services Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

The challenge moves forward.

Subsequent to its adoption by the 2006 U.S. Conference of Mayors in June of 2007, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2030 Challenge gained further support and validation through its adoption by the National Association of Counties (NACo) at its Richmond meeting held in July of 2007.

Mayor L. Douglas Wilder of Richmond, one of the six Virginia mayors attending the 2006 Conference of Mayors, also attended the NACo meeting in further support of the movement.

The NACo policy reiterates the same ideals as adopted unanimously at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which included policies and resolutions for governmental entities to actively and effectively reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution. NACo supports the goals of the 2030 Challenge encouraging counties to set conservatory policies and targets applicable to all new and renovated public buildings toward a carbon neutral built environment by the year 2030.

Such building construction projects should be thoughtfully and purposefully designed to achieve a performance standard of a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption of one-half of the national average for that building type, as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The construction of buildings should employ cost effective, energy efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible. The life cycle cost of buildings should be considered and emphasized, rather than their initial capital cost.

NACo supports the federal government’s efforts to promote high performance green building principles. Immediate and long term federal efforts would involve all levels of stakeholders to alleviate possible sources affecting climate change through practical incentives and greater funding for emissions reduction.

On a broad scale, NACo’s policy also supports and encourages voluntary measures by all persons and entities to conscientiously conserve energy, both in built and consumed product sources, and to ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As reported in the summer 2007 edition of *Code Connection*, the Commonwealth of Virginia, under Governor Timothy Kaine, instituted a statewide energy policy to protect and preserve the natural resources and natural environment. Last April, Kaine issued an executive order directing all state agencies to improve energy efficiency and conservation efforts by 20 percent through the year 2010.

Additionally, new construction and renovation of state government projects are required to incorporate sustainable technologies and standards where practical and cost effective.

For those individuals or components assisting or guiding communities in the initiation of policies and programs relative to the AIA 2030 Challenge, a report of the recent local interdisciplinary task force facilitated by the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects (VSAIA) on behalf of the City of Richmond is now available to the public and interested parties.

The task force was assigned to study the AIA 2030 Challenge initiative and to recommend viable options and plans of action for implementation to the City of Richmond.

“We’re not content with where we are regarding the strong need to reduce greenhouse emissions in order to protect our environment,” stated Richmond Mayor Wilder. “With the 2030 Challenge report to guide us, we will be setting the example ourselves and not waiting to follow others. We recognize the need to take proactive steps to preserve our environment for future generations.”

The report may be used as a template or tool delineating the recent process initiated locally to transform the 2030 Challenge objectives into a reality in other communities, tracking the goals of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and most recently NACo, as well as the state and local governments,

for a healthier environment.

To view the report, visit the link provided below at the end of the article. For further information, visit: <http://www.naco.org>.

Energy management

NACo offers a variety of services for county officials to attend to their energy management issues. Counties may participate in the NACo ENERGY STAR Challenge and the NACo ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign, where they lead others by example and motivate the private sector to improve energy efficiency.

As an additional tool, useful in benchmarking energy consumption and cost relative to county buildings, NACo provides free assistance with the measurement, tracking, and assessment of energy patterns. The online ENERGY STAR tool Portfolio Manager measures energy and water usage in any building type and calculates the percentage of energy reduction and greenhouse gas emissions.

Contact Kelly Zonderwyk at: kzonderwyk@naco.org or (202) 942-4224, or Scott Berry at: sberry@naco.org or (202) 942-4274 for more information.



SBCAO staff inspect industrialized buildings in the state and across the country

*Eric Leatherby,
State Building Code Senior Construction Inspector II
State Building Code Administrative Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

Did you know that more than 5,000 industrialized buildings were manufactured and certified for placement in Virginia during the past year?

Industrialized or manufactured buildings, commonly called modular buildings, are more common than you think.

“While site constructed buildings account for a large majority of the new building stock in Virginia, the number of factory built structures is increasing every year,” says Eric Leatherby, state building code senior construction inspector for the Division of Building and Fire Regulation.

These factory built structures encompass a wide range of uses. Nearly 60 percent are used for residential purposes, including single family homes, duplexes, townhouses, and apartments. The remaining 40 percent are commercial units serving as offices, construction trailers, schools, classrooms, restaurants, convenience stores, prisons, equipment shelters, and kiosks.

Industrialized buildings are built to the same building codes and standards as site-built buildings.

The Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR) establishes statewide standards for the construction and installation of industrialized buildings. The IBSR is administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD) State Building Code Administrative Office (SBCAO) in the Division of Building and Fire Regulation.

The inspection process

Nearly 80 percent of these buildings are manufactured out of state, including North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Some are manufactured as far away as California.



This makes the job of inspecting the manufacturing facilities more complicated for staff at DHCD.

That’s why Virginia, like many other states, utilizes a third party system to ensure that the design and construction of these buildings is in compliance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).

“Without the third party system the SBCAO would have to employ a staff large enough to review more than 5,000 plans a year and conduct inspections in facilities located from Maine to California,” said Leatherby.

Third party agencies, known as Compliance Assurance Agencies (CAA), are generally private engineering firms approved by the state to perform building plan design review and factory inspections of industrialized buildings. Currently there are 12 CAAs approved by the SBCAO, which inspect between 5,000 and 6,000 units on behalf of Virginia each year.

The CAA reviews and approves building plans, and then continues the process by conducting building inspections through each phase of construction. Generally industrialized building assembly lines contain 12 or more construction stations, including flooring, walls, roofing, electrical, insulation, drywall, roofing, and siding. Once completed, the CAA applies its certification label, as well as the Virginia certification seal to the building.

“The CAA label and state seal act as verification to local building officials that the structure was built in compliance with the USBC,” said Leatherby.

Locally, the building official is then responsible for ensuring the structure is set-up or installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

State monitoring

DHCD staff provide oversight of the CAA’s by monitoring their design review and building inspection duties. DHCD staff review approximately 33 percent of the building plans that have been approved by the CAA’s for compliance with applicable building codes.

“If code violations are found on plans approved by a CAA, they will receive a deviation letter and they must re-submit the plans with corrections,” said Leatherby.

DHCD staff also perform approximately 60 factory audits each year at various manufacturing facilities both in and out of Virginia. Leatherby and other DHCD staff travel to North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and as far away as Georgia and Indiana to perform these audits.

The audits are generally performed at the factories which build the largest number of structures for Virginia, determined through the tracking of certification seals.

“Although there is quite a bit of travel involved with this program, the trips are spread out so I’m not away from home for long periods,” says Leatherby. “The travel also allows me to meet face to face with the manufacturers and the CAA’s which helps us communicate better when I’m in the office.”

During the audits, staff evaluate the effectiveness of both the CAA and the manufacturer’s quality control program, reviewing inspection reports and production files. Next, staff review quality control inspection lists at each production station to ensure they are being utilized, and buildings are inspected to verify that they are being constructed in accordance with the approved plans. Inspection reports are reviewed to confirm that production violations are being properly documented and that corrective actions to remedy violations are addressed.

“We also check to see that testing of components such as plumbing and electrical systems are being routinely witnessed, and that all phases of the production line are being

inspected,” said Leatherby. “We check the testing equipment for proper calibration and verify that building materials are being properly stored and protected from the elements.”

After each audit, a report is prepared and discussed with the manufacturer, as well as sent to the CAA for review and comment.

A growing trend

As industrialized buildings increasingly become an attractive and viable alternative to site built homes and buildings, their numbers in Virginia continue to grow. Since 2002, the number of industrialized buildings has grown from 3,300 built for Virginia to more than 5,200 built in 2006.

As the trend continues, Leatherby and his peers will continue to perform inspections to ensure the safety of these buildings for all Virginians.



Manufacturer Product Recalls, Service Bulletins, and Safety Advisories

*Paula Eubank, Associate Director
Technical Assistance and Services Office,
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

Although not exhaustive, the following contains notable and important safety and service information, advisories, bulletins, and recalls issued by the product manufacturers.

Bertazzon 3B srl – The Council for Amusement and Recreational Equipment Safety (CARES) reported a failure of one of the support pieces on the driving steel ropes of the radial arms on the Matterhorn Rock-n-Roll amusement device ride manufactured by Bertazzon 3B srl.

This deficiency may affect all models and serial numbers of the Matterhorn amusement device. Although the recent failure occurred on a unit manufactured in 2005, a previous service bulletin, SB/MH0001 dated February 2004, alerted owners of the Matterhorn to other breakage risks associated with the thimbles at the edges of the driving steel ropes. The 2004 service bulletin recommended replacement of the driving steel ropes and related components as well as modifications to the threaded tightener, which specified two 4mm clips each to lock the tightener after adjustment of the ropes tension.

For additional information regarding this notice, contact Mike Triplett, manager of the Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Program at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs via telephone at (609) 292-2097 or e-mail at: mtriplett@dca.state.nj.us.

Eaton Corporation – The Eaton/Cutler-Hammer Corporation identified a product integrity issue of certain rotary and toggle disconnect switches, both loose and enclosed, within consumer product shipments manufactured between the dates of Jan. 1, 2007 and Dec. 15, 2007.

The suspect switches affect the 60A, 80A, 100A, and 125A loose switches or enclosures containing these switches and were sold through Eaton warehouses and satellite locations. The comprehensive list of the associated catalog numbers of affected switches may be obtained from the Eaton Corporation, supplier, or distributor.

To determine suspect switches, follow the standard switch installation procedures provided by the supplier to inspect and/or replace the defective switches. Detailed instructions to determine the date code of suspect loose or enclosed switches and A/C disconnect switches are also available through the Eaton Corporation. Note that the date code located on a switch itself prevails as the date code on the switch and its packaging and shipping container may not be identical.

The potentially serious consequences of the defect require that Eaton Corporation confirm the completion of remedial action and the disclosure to the supplier. A Confirmation of Corrective Procedure form, available through Eaton Corporation, must be completed and submitted to the PCSO Product Integrity Center via fax to (412) 787-6540 or e-mail to: MichaelCValenta@eaton.com.

For additional information, visit the Eaton/Cutler Hammer Corporation online at the link listed in the sidebar at the end of article or contact (800) 210-6208. 

North American Breaker Company Incorporated – December 2007 – The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with the North American Breaker Company (NABCO), announced a voluntary recall of counterfeit circuit breakers labeled and sold as a Square D manufactured product. Note that this is not a recall initiated by the Square D Company.



Manufactured in China, approximately 50,000 counterfeit circuit breaker units were sold nationwide by NABCO and electrical distributors and retailers between March 2003 and April 2006 at \$3 to \$85.

The counterfeit breakers are black and labeled Square D, series QO, models 110, 115, 120, 130, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 250, 260, 280, 315, 340, 350, 360, 1515, 1520, 2020, 2125, and 3100. To identify a genuine Square D circuit breaker manufactured by NABCO, locate the amperage rating painted white on the front toggle switch, the Square D insignia molded into the side, and the yellow chromate mounting clip having the top half of the clip visible.

Should a breaker not correspond to the above description, possessing any or all of these indicators, it is likely a counterfeit circuit breaker. NABCO offers free inspections of suspected counterfeit breakers upon request and replacement breakers or full refunds as necessary.

For additional information, visit: www.nabcorecall.com or contact NABCO via e-mail at: recall@nabreaker.com or telephone at: (866) 505-5851.

McQuay International – January 2008 – McQuay International has identified a safety concern with the electric heater assembly in certain Remington and McQuay ComfortPac Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners and Packaged Terminal Heat Pumps and is conducting a voluntary recall of the affected electric power cord.

The safety concern is isolated to the B and B+ vintage model PTAC and PTHP units which is either size 12 (12,000 nominal BTUs) or size 15 (15,000 nominal BTUs), and only if the electric heater operates at 5,000 watts/5 kilowatts, and only if the power cord displays numbers 105575703 (208/230V) or 105575803 (265V). To identify an affected unit, locate the power cord part number, which is cast into the molded plug at the cord end that attaches or plugs to the chassis or unit.

For additional information, visit online at the link listed in the sidebar at the end of article or contact McQuay at: PTACRecall@mcquay.com or (800) 617-8756. ②

Progress Lighting – August 2008 – Progress Lighting of Greenville, South Carolina announced a voluntary recall of certain pendant style ceiling mounted indoor light fixtures that may unexpectedly fall. Consumers should immediately cease the use of these light fixtures, unless otherwise instructed.

Approximately 6,000 of the lighting fixtures were manufactured in China and sold by electrical and lighting distributors, including select Home Depot and Expo Design Centers nationwide, between January 2005 and May 2008 at \$180 to \$1,000 each.

The recall involves pendant-style ceiling-mounted light fixtures having a brushed aluminum finish and frosted white glass and affects the following models: P3601-09, P3602-09, P3603-09, P3603-09EXP, P3685-09, P365-09EXP, P4260-09, P4261-09, P4261-09EXP, and P4262-09. The product number is inscribed inside the canopy located flush with the ceiling.



For additional information, contact Progress Lighting at (877) 369-4548 or visit the firm's Web site at: <http://progresslighting.com/recall.htm>.

Simpson Dura-Vent – April 2008 – Simpson Dura-Vent issued a product bulletin regarding the non-permissible non-compliant installation of 45 degree elbows in any of the all-fuel chimney systems in the United States. The 45 degree elbows are not in compliance with the International Building Code (IBC) or UL103 and UL 103HT, Standard for Factory-Built Chimneys for Residential Type and Building Heating Appliance. Additionally, NFPA 211 may not be applied to justify the installation of the 45 degree elbows as the IBC requires conformance with UL 103.

In accordance with the IBC, referencing the International Mechanical Code (IMC), Chapter 8 Chimneys and Vents, Section 805 Factory-Built Chimneys, Section 805.2 Solid Fuel Appliances, factory-built chimneys installed in dwelling units with solid-fuel burning appliances shall comply with the Type HT requirements of UL 103 and shall be marked "Type HT" and "Residential Type and Building Heating Appliance Chimney".

Two exceptions apply to Section 805.2, however both chimney applications must still comply with the requirements of UL 103. First, chimneys for use with open combustion chamber fireplaces shall be marked "Residential Type and Building Heating Appliance Chimney". Second, chimneys for use with open combustion chamber appliances installed in buildings other than dwelling units shall be marked "Building Heating Appliance Chimney" or "Residential Type and Building Heating Appliance Chimney".

Per UL 103, factory-built chimneys for residential type and building heating appliances, Section 7.8 states that when a chimney assembly incorporates elbows, no part of the chimney shall be at an angle of more than 30 degrees from the vertical at any point in the assembly, and the chimney



shall not include more than two offsets or four elbows. It should be noted that UL 127, the standard applicable to factory-built fireplaces, and Section 7.10 Chimney Elbows, reiterates this 30 degree limitation on elbows.

While attempts to creatively interpret the code and apply NFPA 211 to permit the 45 degree elbows, UL 103, including UL 103HT, clearly governs as the applicable standard, which prohibits the use and installation of the 45 degree elbows. Under Chapter 6, Factory-Built Chimneys and Chimney Units, Section 6.1.3, Listing Requirements, and its subsections, compliance with UL 103 and UL 103HT is specified for factory-built chimneys and factory-built chimneys for use with wood burning appliances, respectively.

NFPA 211 also specifies applicable Canadian ULC standards for systems. As NFPA 211 is an accepted standard in both the United States and Canada, the language may be misinterpreted to imply that the Canadian ULC standards are

also appropriate to apply to installations in the United States. However, each of the UL and ULC standards define which countries are applicable to each standard. NFPA is reviewing the language and expected to clarify the ambiguity.

This notification should alert building inspectors within the United States IBC adopting jurisdictions to the applicable governing documents and to be aware of non-compliant installations of the 45 degree elbows. Homeowners and fire/casualty insurers should also be made aware of the non-compliant installations in the event of chimney fires. Chimney manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and installers may be held responsible and liable when providing or installing non-compliant components not in conformance with the governing codes.

For additional information, visit: www.duravent.com or contact Simpson Dura-Vent at (800) 835-4429.

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

1 www.eaton.com/EatonCom/ProductsServices/Cutler-Hammer/index.htm

2 www.mcquay.com/McQuay/ProductInformation/PTACRecall/PTACRecall

Curtis Mclver's retirement party

*Hollie Cammarasana, Public Relations Director
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development*

After 37 years of dedicated state service, staff of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) gathered on May 15 to celebrate the retirement of State Building Code Administrator Curtis Mclver.

For many in the building code enforcement careers, particularly those in the industrialized building and manufactured housing industries, Mclver was well-known as someone they could call to help solve many of the issues and challenges local building officials and others come across during their daily work.

Whether it be a homeowner, landlord, architect, engineer or a building official, Mclver was always took pride in listening to the situation and taking the time to research the code, and help find an answer or solution that will help move projects forward.

"Just when you think you've heard it all, you get something new," laughed Mclver. Shortly before retiring, Mclver helped interpret building code requirements for a local building official reviewing an application from a resident to build a tree house.

Of course, this wasn't your average child's tree house.

"This was literally a residential dwelling that the resident wanted to build in the trees," said Mclver. "They had specialists come out and examine the trees, but there was nothing in the code that applied specifically to this situation."

After further review, the issue was resolved using alternate and equivalent code requirements. The resident will get his tree house.

Mclver started his state government career after working for more than nine years at the City of Richmond's Bureau of Engineering as a building inspector. In 1980, Mclver came to work for DHCD in the Division of Building and Fire Regulation.

Throughout his career, Mclver's proudest accomplishment

was his participation in the establishment of the Virginia Manufactured Housing Board (VMHB).

The VMHB was established in 1992 to develop licenses for manufacturers, dealers, brokers, and salespersons in the manufactured housing industry. Since its inception, Mclver served as secretary of the board and helped draft licensing and other regulations.

Mclver was also involved with the board's establishment of the Transaction Recovery Fund, which provides protection for manufactured housing consumers. The VMHB receives consumer complaints on manufactured homes, and makes

case decisions to resolve them – sometimes using money from the Transaction Recovery Fund to reimburse consumers for damages or loss.

"Since it began, the fund has paid out \$367,000 to consumers for losses," said Mclver. "It has helped the industry grow by providing support for consumers, who feel more confident purchasing a manufactured home knowing this fund is there should there be a problem."



In 2002, the Virginia Manufactured and Modular Housing Association (VAMMHA) elected Mclver to their Hall of Fame. More than two-thirds of the VAMMHA Board of Directors and present Hall of Fame members were required to induct Mclver.

The plaque, which hung in his office, reads "In recognition of unselfish dedication to the Manufactured Housing Industry."

"I was really... rather honored," said Mclver. "When an industry that you regulate holds you in such high esteem, it's an honor."

Ron Dunlap, president of VAMMHA, has only kind words and well wishes for Mclver.

"When I came to this position in 1982, Curtis was one of the first people I met," said Dunlap. "More than anyone else in the industry, or in the national association, Curtis has been the biggest help in solving problems with building officials,

HUD code, just anything. He has been a major part of developing the Virginia Manufactured Housing Board, and over the years has just been an exceptional friend to me.”

Curtis plans to continue a working relationship with DHCD in the future, possibly instructing and facilitating for the code academy modules.

Meanwhile, the McIver's will be moving into their new home near Wintergreen at the end of April and plan to continue travel – possibly visiting Ireland and Scotland again soon.

“I'd like to express my thanks and appreciation to all of the great folks that I have worked with at DHCD over the years for everything that they have helped me with and all of the assistance that has been provided to me,” said McIver at his retirement celebration.

“If you can count your friends as blessings, I have been very, very fortunate and extremely blessed to have experienced the friendship of the many wonderful folks in this agency.”

Sharon Smith departs DHCD

*Sandi Morris, Training and Certification Manager
Technical Assistance and Services Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

This past May, after 21 years of dedicated service to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the state's code enforcement community, Sharon Smith, has retired from her position as certification coordinator to pursue new opportunities.

Smith started with DHCD in 1987 and joined the team now referred to as the Technical Assistance Services Office (TASO) Training and Certification Unit (TCU) in 1989. While at the TCU, Smith devoted her professional career to establishing long term working relationships with agency clients, providing superior customer service and overseeing various programs and initiatives including code enforcement and blaster certifications.

Smith also played a significant role in many of the activities associated with the operations of the Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (JPVBCA), including serving as staff support to the Building Code Academy Advisory Committee (BCAAC).

“We are proud of Sharon's dedication to the code enforcement community through her role on the NCPCCI Board of Governors, where earlier this year she was elected as vice-chair on the board,” said Emory Rodgers, deputy director of the Division of Building and Fire Regulation.

“Because of her relationship with and her service to the NCPCCI Board, Sharon positively influenced NCPCCI in both the continued implementation of a quality examination program and the ongoing efforts to strengthen customer service,” said Rodgers.

Smith's wealth of industry knowledge regarding training and certification, her dedication to the certification program, and her long standing relationships with many localities, organizations, and individuals in the code enforcement community, as well as her personalized customer service, will be missed not only among her agency coworkers but also throughout the code enforcement community.



TASO Technical Services Unit (TSU) FAQs

*Vernon Hodge, Technical Services Manager
Technical Assistance and Services Office,
Division of Building and Fire Regulations*

Frequently Asked Questions of the Technical Services Unit (TSU) within the Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO)

The Virginia State Building Code Technical Review Board (TRB) issued the following official interpretations of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).

1. Question: Are the heavy metal storage or shipping containers that fit onto a tractor trailer or railcar, when placed on the ground, accessory to a business or residence regulated by the USBC?

Answer: Shipping containers are not regulated under the USBC unless they are constructed or altered on site, or if there is a change of occupancy in the use of the container.

Code and Section: USBC Part I Virginia Construction Code Section 103.1

Date: August 2007

2. Question: Is it the intent of Section 1008.1.3.4 to prohibit the installation of access control devices at the entrance door(s) to a means of egress in a Group I-2 occupancy?

Answer: No. While this section does not apply to Group I-2, the code generally does not prohibit ingress control provided all applicable means of egress provisions are met.

Code and Section: USBC Part I Virginia Construction Code Section 1008.1.3.4

Date: June 2008

3. Question: In jurisdictions which have not elected to enforce the Virginia Maintenance Code, does the third paragraph of Section 104.1 give authority to investigate complaints of immediate and imminent threats to the health and safety from any complainant rather than just complaints by a tenant of a residential rental unit that is subject of such complaint?

Answer: No. This provision would only apply to enforcement action under the previous paragraph unless the locality has elected to enforce the Virginia Maintenance Code.

Code and Section: USBC Part I Virginia Construction Code Section 104.1

Date: June 2008

With questions for the TRB regarding the USBC, please contact: the Office of the Technical Review Board at trb@dhcd.virginia.gov or (804) 371-7140.



TASO Training and Certification Unit – New! Improved! Schedules, applications, and certifications now available

*Sandi Morris, Training and Certification Manager
Technical Assistance and Services Office
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

The 2009 Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (JPVBCA) schedule will be available through the Training and Certification On-Line System.

Please take a moment to visit the Training and Certification On-Line System at www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Online/ for training details, including course schedules, descriptions, and general area locations, as well as certification information and related forms.

All Code Academy applications are submitted via the Training and Certification On-Line registration site. To be considered for a Code Academy course, applicants must establish a user profile prior to the application process. Please complete the information in the profile section completely and correctly in order to be contacted with information pertaining to a course.

The Training and Certification Unit (TCU) has issued a new application form relative to certification application and, effective Jan. 1, 2008, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) only accepts the new application form.

A number of significant changes to the form were designed to improve the issuance process. Each certification request must be accompanied by an individual completed application form. The new downloadable form is available on the Training and Certification On-line System as well as on the DHCD Web site home page. As always, this application and other related forms are available at all Code Academy courses.

In response to the influx of inquiries and requests for certifications in the wall plaque style as previously issued by DHCD, the TCU has reestablished the distribution of both wall and wallet certifications. The TCU will pursue the possibility to retroactively issue the wall certifications for those certifications previously issued only in the wallet size upon special request.

The message board, available on the front page of the Training and Certification On-line System, announces any changes, cancellations, and other important notices related to the Code Academy, including additional information regarding locations not available at the time of application or

registration. Therefore, it is imperative that you visit the site often, and especially prior to any course attendance.

For further information or with any questions, please e-mail the TCU at tco@dhcd.virginia.gov or by telephone at: (804) 371-7180.

Examination Services

The Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) approves and recognizes two testing agencies which administer the state examinations required for BHCD certifications. Based upon the desired examination location and schedule, individuals may select from the International Code Council (ICC) or the National Certification Program for Construction Code Inspectors (NCPCCI).

PearsonVUE, administering agency for the International Code Council (ICC), and Prometric, administering agency for the National Certification Program for Construction Code Inspectors (NCPCCI), should be contacted directly regarding



their specific examination or test taking services. General testing information, registration for examinations, handbooks, applications, and forms necessary for examinations may be downloaded online at their respective Web sites.

For information on testing through the ICC, contact PearsonVUE at: www.pearsonVUE.com or at (800) 275-8301.

For information on testing through the NCPCCI, contact Prometric at: www.prometric.com/ncpcci or (800) 864-5309.

Other inquiries and questions regarding state certification may be directed to the Training and Certification Unit at: tco@dhcd.virginia.gov or (804) 371-7180.

TASO Business Services Unit – Data management through information technology

*Marilyn Peterson, Business Services Manager
TASO Business Services Unit,
Division of Building and Fire Regulation*

The Business Services Unit of the Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO) administers numerous revenue generating programs for the Division of Building and Fire Regulation.

These programs require the daily management of a high volume of administrative and financial information. Currently, this data is captured within databases, spreadsheets, and Microsoft Word documents. In some instances, there is duplication of information that must be consolidated or reconciled.

In an effort to improve and streamline our processes, the Business Services Unit is in the early stages of working with the agency's information technology and fiscal services staff to develop a Web-based administrative information system.

The goal is to create a system with applications and services that will be available at any time from any location through a single portal. A key component of the new system will be the capability to accept credit card payments associated with services such as training program fees, code book orders, industrialized building license renewals, and manufactured housing seals.

Similar to the training and certification online registration system, the expectation is that the system will provide the same level of customer satisfaction with ease of access and navigation. Additional updates on the status of this project will be provided as they occur.



Board and advisory committee activities

State Building Code Technical Review Board

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is pleased to announce three new Gubernatorial appointments to the State Building Code Technical Review Board.

Eric Mays, building official and building maintenance code official for Prince William County, represents the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association in the seat previously held by Greg Revels, building official for Henrico County.

James R. (Robbie) Dawson, Jr., battalion chief and fire marshal for Chesterfield County, replaces Mike Conners, Sr., senior investigative analyst with Doptis and Buchanan, Inc., as the representative for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association on the board.

John A. Knepper, Jr. with Trumbo Electric, Inc. is the new electrical contractor representative on the board, who replaces J.C. Hawkins with Hawkins Electrical Contractors, Inc.

DHCD extends its sincerest appreciation to the dedicated service of the retiring board members and its welcoming congratulations to the incoming members.

Virginia Manufactured Housing Board

In July 2008, the Virginia Manufactured Housing Board (VMHB) met in conjunction with the Virginia Manufactured and Modular Housing Association (VAMMHA) Annual Conference in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Items presented for discussion on the board's agenda included topics such as the development of a training module to focus on the HUD Regulations by the Education Program Committee, under the guidance of the Deputy Director, and the delineation of the delegated duties under Virginia Regulations, as well as the clarification of the required inspections under the Virginia Regulations during the 2009 regulatory process.

Additional details regarding proposed regulatory changes, as administered under the Commonwealth of Virginia provisions that include the Virginia Manufactured Housing Licensing and Transaction Recovery Fund Regulations, are forthcoming. Future developments may include training, workshops, and possibly code change development procedures instituted as part of the regulatory process in administration of the manufactured and modular housing program in the Commonwealth.

While under further consideration by the board at this time, industry representatives should be alerted to expect additional information about proposed changes to these topics, among others. Constituents and code enforcement personnel should expect additional updates and be prepared to provide their valued input.

Lorenzo Dyer of the DHCD State Building Code Administrative Office (SBCAO) was elected by the board to serve as Secretary to the Manufactured Housing Board. Congratulations, Lorenzo.

Building Code Academy Advisory Committee

The Building Code Academy Advisory Committee (BCAAC) has been meeting on a quarterly basis to discuss various policies and activities of the Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy.

Recently, agenda items and discussions have focused on the 2006 code adoption cycle, code change training, permit technician certification, Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) approval and continuing educating credits, DHCD continuing education policy, specialized training classes, call for instructors, and the long-range strategic plan.

At the beginning of the year, the committee stepped back to reflect upon the Board of Housing and Community Development's policy for the BCAAC. Through this reflection, it was determined that a draft operational procedures manual was necessary to provide oversight in running the committee. Some of the items considered for inclusion in the operational procedure manual are the assignment of a liaison to the board, limitation of the chairman and co-chairman terms, participation of alternate committee members, and scheduling and notification of quarterly meetings.

The next BCCAC meeting date is to be announced.

Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee

The Virginia Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee (ADTAC), appointed by the Board of Housing and Community Development to provide assistance and advice to the board on the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations, met in May of 2008 to review and discuss current issues concerning amusement devices. Several representatives of rental companies who specialize in the small inflatable devices were present and joined in the discussion.

Of specific interest were the new provisions in the 2006 regulations for inflatable amusement devices that permit a yearly inspection for small devices.

A key issue centered upon the meaning of the phrase "open to the public" in the definition of an amusement device.

The new requirements for liability insurance were also reviewed, resulting in general agreement that the \$1,000,000 per device requirement was met, regardless of multiple rides being covered by the same policy, as that coverage amount would be available for any occurrence.

The committee will meet again in the fall to prepare for the 2009 code change activity.

Accolades



Karl Bren – Congratulations to Karl Bren, the 2007 winner of The Emerald Awards, sponsored by STYLE magazine. The award honors green heroes who foster making local changes for a global cause. Many of Karl's family, friends, and colleagues joined him to celebrate the evening as Karl was awarded this honor on November 28, 2007 at the LivingGreen event at the Science Museum of Virginia.

Henry Green – Congratulations to Henry Green for his recent appointment as the president and chief executive officer of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS). Green is past president of the International Code Council (ICC), an honorary American Institute of Architects member, and a long-term colleague of many of Virginia's code officials.

continues...

NIBS provides an authoritative advisory resource to the public and private sectors regarding building science and technology, such as the identification and resolution of any building process and facility performance issues. Green has served in numerous voluntary positions for the organization, including 2002-2003 board chairman. He was selected to his new position because of his vast knowledge of building practices and unequalled consensus-building skills, as well as his proven professional management and executive leadership capabilities.

Highly respected by the building community, and widely recognized for his accomplishments and contributions within the building industry, Green's innovative approach and public outreach will long benefit and guide NIBS.

Jim Messersmith – As coordinating manager of regional code services for the Portland Cement Association, Jim Messersmith earned the 2008 International Code Council (ICC) Affiliate of the Year Award for his 25-year dedication to codes and code development as well as his coordination and collaboration with the building industry on code change proposals. ICC Immediate Past President Steve Shapiro and Awards Committee Chairman Tim Ryan presented the award to Messersmith at the 2008 ICC Annual Conference, Business Meeting, and Final Action Hearings in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Sept. 17, 2008.

John Trenary – Congratulations to John Trenary, Frederick County building official, the recipient of the annual Barrier Breaker Award presented by Access Independence (AI) of Shenandoah Valley. On April 25 Trenary graciously accepted the award on behalf of his code enforcement staff and design review specialists. The award recognizes efforts empowering people having disabilities to garner self-determination, take advantage of options, live as independents, contribute to society, and wholly participate in the American experience.

Access Independence, a community-based center for independent living which serves several jurisdictions in the Shenandoah Valley, promotes the ability and confidence through empowerment and independence of people with disabilities. The mission of the organization strives to secure and maintain the human and civil rights of all people with disabilities.

Congratulations to all and thank you for your dedicated public service.

Please be encouraged to forward the exceptional achievements and accomplishments of any exemplary public or private industry contributors, including Master Code Professionals (MCP) and Certified Building Officials (CBO), for acknowledgement and recognition in the Code Connection by submitting the contributor's name, position title, jurisdiction or company of employment, summary of honors, and statement of appreciation.

About the IAEI

*Joseph Goble, Contributing Guest Author,
Public Relations Committee Chairman,
Virginia Chapter IAEI*

The Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) would like to thank *Code Connection* for asking us to contribute.

The IAEI is a group of professionals who strive to educate the public and industry professionals on the use and application of the adopted codes and standards for the safe installation of electrical systems.

The IAEI Educational Committee has conducted code classes for contractors throughout the Commonwealth for several years. The Educational Committee is also responsible for the scholarship fund, which is available to jurisdictions to provide financial assistance for inspectors attending the IAEI annual meeting regarding the electrical code.

Members of the code-making panels are invited to attend the annual meeting and to provide insight about important information on new code changes.

The IAEI Public Relations Committee coordinates efforts in support of Electrical Safety Month, recognized in May, to bring awareness and information to the general public about maintaining their homes free and safe from the hazards that may arise from the uses of electricity.

For additional information regarding the association, or to apply for membership, please visit any one of the following Web sites:

- IAEI - www.iaei.org/
- IAEI Southern Section - www.southern.iaei.org/
- IAEI Virginia Chapter - www.iaevirginiachapter.org/

Or contact the Virginia Chapter via e-mail at: info@iaevirginia.com or via Post Office Box 1541, Lorton, Virginia 22199.

Jean Stanley chairs the Virginia Chapter membership committee and may be contacted at stanleyje@chesterfield.gov or (804) 748-1066.

Calendar of Events:

JPVBCA Understanding Braced Walls

Oct. 30, 2008

Tidewater area - actual location to be announced

This course focuses on new and extensive regulations concerning wall braced panels for residential construction, presented and tailored to the needs of the building official, plan reviewer, and building inspector.

The material derives from the 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) Section R602.10, as amended by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). This six hour class reviews: the history of wall bracing, horizontal loads and load resistance, methods of wall bracing, braced wall lines, calculations of required wall bracing, and related provisions. Attendees will participate in a 'whole house' practice exercise.

No tuition fees are associated with this program and lunch is not provided. Recommended materials and tools: 2006 International Residential Code, 2006 VUSBC, 1/8 or 1/4 scale, and calculator. To register for this course or for additional information, please visit:

www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Online/.

JPVBCA Fire Protection Systems Inspection

Nov. 18 – 20, 2008

Loudoun County area – actual location to be announced

This 3-day course is designed for individuals inspecting fire protection systems. This course is required for certification as Fire Protection Inspector and is scheduled twice a year. Applicants must have a basic knowledge of fire systems and have attended the prerequisite Core course prior to taking this course.

The course will include sessions on fire suppression/sprinkler inspection/test checklist (all types), fire notification/alarm system checklist, kitchen hood checklist; and fire pump testing. To register for this course, or for additional information, please visit: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Online/.

JPVBCA Permit Technician

Dec. 2 – 3, 2008

Richmond Area – actual location to be announced

This 2-day course is designed for individuals who issue and/or review building permits issued to clients. This course will be scheduled at least once a year. The Core course is recommended, although not a mandatory prerequisite for attendance to this session.

The course will include permits: what and when; contractor licensing requirements; customer service practices; freedom of information act; records retention and disposal requirements; preparation and assembly of information for boards and commissions; and taking and reporting of meeting minutes. To register for this course, or for additional information, please visit: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Online/.





DHCD Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy Announces 2009 Academy Schedule

The Training and Certification Unit (TCU) is pleased to provide you with the 2009 Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy in this special supplement of the Code Connection. In addition to the regularly scheduled Academy programs and courses, TCU is very excited to provide a number of specialized one-day offerings this year, including Accessibility, Energy, Exam Preparation, and International Existing Building Code (IEBC). These programs will run concurrently and be available across the state over the next year.

TCU requests that special attention be paid to several changes to the upcoming VBCA schedule. Unfortunately, the Virginia Building Code Academy is not immune to the economic difficulties that many of us are experiencing throughout the Commonwealth. In response to current and in anticipation of future trends, TCU considered many factors in the design and development of the Academy schedule, such as customer needs, attendance trends, and delivery costs.

The first change expands the regional areas in which the training will be offered: the Northern area includes NoVa as far south as Fredericksburg, the Eastern area includes Tidewater as far west as Williamsburg, the Western area includes Southwest as far east as Roanoke, and the Central area includes all other areas central to the state and surrounding Richmond. In an effort to utilize many recently established training, conference, and lodging facilities, TCU expects that this restructure will increase the Academy efficiency, effectiveness, and vendor pool.

The second change reduces the Academy to a three-semester format for 2009. Full training semesters are offered in the areas of the state having the most concentrated need – Northern, Central, and Eastern – and a limited basic semester, which maintains the Core program offering and launches certain specialized courses, is offered in the remaining areas of the state – Western/Southwestern. In addition, TCU looks forward to continuing our initiative to utilize alternate delivery methods to increase remote program availability.

TCU appreciates your patience during this difficult economic climate as we strive to satisfy all of your training needs. Please note that course offerings remain subject to cancellation based on low enrollment and program need. Locations may change based on program need. Schedules may change based on instructor availability.

For more information or to register for Virginia Building Code Academy training courses please go to:

<https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/tconlineregistration/Login.aspx>



**Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy
2009 Course Schedule**



Date	Course	Location/Area
January 6-8	CORE	Northern area
January 13-15 (16 th Lee Jackson Day)	Electrical Inspection	Northern area
January 21-23 (19 th Martin Luther King Day)	Fire Protection Systems Inspection	Northern area
January 27-29	Plumbing Inspection	Northern area
February 3-5	Advanced Official	Richmond area
February 10-12	Property Maintenance	Northern area
February 18-20 (16 th George Washington Day)	Plans Review Non-Structural	Northern area
February 24-26	Mechanical Inspection	Northern area
March 3-4	Plans Review Structural	Northern area
March 10-12	Building Inspection	Northern area
March 17-18	Permit Technician	Northern area
March 24-26	CORE	Eastern area
March 31 – April 2	Property Maintenance	Eastern area
April 7-9	Fire Protection Systems Inspection	Eastern area
April 14-16	Electrical Inspection	Eastern area
April 21-23	Mechanical Inspection	Eastern area
April 28-30	Plumbing Inspection	Eastern area
May 5-6	Permit Technician	Eastern area
May 12-14	Building Inspection	Eastern area
May 19-20	Plans Review Structural	Eastern area
May 27-29 (25 th Memorial Day)	Plans Review Non-Structural	Eastern area
June 2-4	Advanced Official	Richmond area
June 9-11	CORE	Western area
June 16-17	IRC	Western area
September 1-3	CORE	Central area
September 15-17	Plumbing Inspection	Central area
September 14-18, October 6-8, and 27-29	<i>Train the Trainer Course</i>	Richmond area
September 22-24	Advanced Official	Central area
September 30– October 2	Electrical Inspection	Central area
October 6-8	Property Maintenance	Central area
October 14-16 (12 th Columbus Day)	Plans Review Non-Structural	Central area
October 20-22	Mechanical Inspection	Central area
October 27-28	Plans Review Structural	Central area
November 3-5	Building Inspection	Central area
November 9-10	IRC	Central area
November 17-19	Fire Protection Systems Inspection	Central area
December 1-2	Permit Technician	Central area
To Be Determined	Basic Amusement Device	To Be Determined

**TASO Training and Certification
2009 Specialized Offerings**

Course	Date	Location/Area
Accessibility	February 6	Eastern area
Accessibility	April 10	Central area
Accessibility	July 14	Northern area
Accessibility	November 13	Western area
Energy	March 20	Northern area
Energy	May 19	Eastern area
Energy	September 10	Central area
Energy	November 10	Western area
Exam Preparation Course	June 23	Western area
Fire Protection Basics	March 18-19	Western area
IEBC	February 11	Eastern area
IEBC	May 7	Northern area

Useful Links



DHCD – Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov>

DBFR – DHCD Division of Building and Fire Regulation
<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/default.htm>

TASO TSU – Technical Services Unit
http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/Virginia_Uniform_Statewide_Building_Code.htm

TASO TCU – Training and Certification
<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/>

JPVBCA – Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy
On-line Registration System: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Online/>
2008 Course Schedule: <https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/tcoonlineregistration/DHCDDownloads/2008-VBCA-Schedule.doc>

VDFP SFMO – Virginia Department of Fire Programs State Fire Marshal's Office
http://www.vafire.com/state_fire_marshall/index.html

Contact Information

DHCD Division of Building and Fire Regulation
bernice.dye@dhcd.virginia.gov
emory.rodgers@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7150

**Department of Fire Programs
State Fire Marshal's Office**
statefiremarshal@vdfp.virginia.gov
ed.altizer@vdfp.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7170



TASO – Technical Assistance and Services Office
taso@dhcd.virginia.gov
codeconnection@dhcd.virginia.gov
bernice.dye@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7140
paula.eubank@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7172

TASO TSU – Technical Services Unit
usbc@dhcd.virginia.gov
trb@dhcd.virginia.gov
vernon.hodge@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7174

TASO TCU – Training and Certification Unit
tco@dhcd.virginia.gov
frances.robinson@dhcd.virginia.gov
sandi.morris@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7180

TASO BSU – Business Services Unit
marilyn.peterson@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7173

SBCAO – State Building Code Administrative Office
debra.winston-bowles@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7160
clinton.wallace@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7161

SBCAO Industrialized/Modular Buildings and Manufactured Housing Programs
larry.brock@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 786-1157

SBCAO Industrialized/Modular Buildings Program
eric.leatherby@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7165

SBCAO Manufactured Housing Program
lorenzo.dyer@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7163

