



Flagler County

Board of County Commissioners

Building Department



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July 2010 HBA Newsletter

Mechanical Contractors:

Emergencies occur with the replacement of mechanical equipment especially during times of high and low temperatures. In the areas of Unincorporated Flagler County and Flagler Beach we recognize that emergencies occur and have attempted to make permitting as easy as possible by allowing for faxed permitting for this work scope. Please keep in mind that the emergency claim will not be acceptable when you are found to be working on site prior to notification to this office. Notification that is acceptable would be through the submittal of the permit application faxed to the appropriate place whether it is Flagler County or the City of Flagler Beach. In some situations notification by phone call or a faxed note will be accepted that the application is forth coming. We do not require the permit to be issued for emergency repairs in accordance to the Florida Building Code section 105.2.1; however the advanced notification is required to be able to document that the application is coming within the next business day as required by the code section referenced. This is another methodology in place by this office in an attempt to protect those of you who are licensed and insured and working within the laws and rules of the State of Florida. Please report any unlicensed or the perception of unlicensed or unpermitted work and we will be more than willing to pursue the case to the best of our ability.

Recently, a Flagler County inspector found work ongoing one afternoon and stopped to check to see if a permit was in the process. The workers on site indicated that there was and they would call the office. The inspector called the County office and found no application in the works. It was only after being caught that the application was faxed claiming an emergency by the contractor. Fortunately the contractor was licensed and insured but due to the nature of the findings was assessed the double fee and penalty as allowed by the adopted fee schedule. A simple call or faxed note that the application was coming could have saved the contractor some money and bad feelings. In general, the process has been working.

Pool Contractors:

As a reminder, the 2007 Florida Building Code that was adopted and effective in March of 2009 requires that a final electrical and barrier inspection be approved **PRIOR** to filling the pool with water. Failure to obtain the approved inspection will result in draining the pool for the required inspection. It is incumbent for contractors to keep up with changes in the code that directly effect there area of licensure as they occur. This was noted in the newsletter from this office in April 2009 as an additional attempt to keep you informed. We have a contractor now that has to address this issue at this time. As I understand it, this code change was supported by the Pool and Spa Association with one reason being an effort to be able to better coordinate the alarm inspections with the owners. There certainly is justification related to safety reasons to support having the barrier in place prior to filling the pool with water. One drowning is too many.

We have received some comments from one contractor related to the new web site and his thoughts of what needs to be included. I am glad to see that the web site is being used, feel free to add your perspective as well for anything you would like to see on the web site or in the newsletter.

Contractor Review Board:

The State CILB took the recommendation of the Flagler County Contractor Review Board in imposing a fine of \$1000 dollars @18% annum interest, investigative cost of 57.72 and completion of 7 additional hours of continuing education within one year to a State Certified Contractor. Those actions were followed by another complaint that ended up at the state level from another jurisdiction against the same contractor that resulted in license revocation, restitution in the amount of \$5513.35 to the owner, \$40,000 fine and costs of \$405.16 in that case. It is not with joy that I am reporting this to you since there obviously was consumer harm associated with the actions; however it is good to know that if multiple issues arise, contractors are held accountable. This is also indicative that the process as desired and in some instances required by the Department of Business and Professional Regulations of going through the local board for disciplinary actions and then to the State of Florida works and is effective. Local actions are reviewed and valued at the state level. A special thanks goes out to our local board and there efforts in hearing cases and acting accordingly. As I stated in the very first meeting of the Board, it is their job to review the information and make a determination of findings. They are not on place to agree or disagree with the jurisdiction bringing the cases. There will be an open position on the Board for the Electrical Contractor seat after August. If you are a Master Electrician in business and a Flagler County resident you may qualify for the Board seat. The space is coming open due to the retirement of John Smith who has served the Baard and the community well.

Gary Hiatt, CBO
Flagler County

