



NEWS RELEASE

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TRI-COUNTY BUILDING INDUSTRY SERVICE CENTER OPENS JULY 1 OPEN HOUSE JUNE 14

(Portland) Building construction industry representatives, area contractors, and local government officials and staff are invited to an open house at the Tri-County Service Center on Wednesday, June 14. The open house will be from noon to 2:00 p.m. The Tri-County Service Center is an office of the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division. The center was created by the 1999 legislature to improve services for persons seeking permitting and licensing approvals on construction projects in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties. The 13-member Tri-County Building Industry Service Board, representing all segments of the construction industry and local government, is sponsoring the event to highlight the center's new functions.

The Tri-County Service Center is a new resource for contractors and building departments that will standardize and streamline building department procedures including permitting, inspecting, forms, etc. throughout the tri-county area. For example, beginning July 1, the minor label permitting program, previously administered by 27 local jurisdictions, will be consolidated at the service center. Minor labels are inexpensive permits for simple electrical and plumbing installations. Rather than having to buy different labels from up to 27 different jurisdictions, as they currently must, contractors can buy a supply at the service center. These labels will be valid for use anywhere in the tri-county area. The service center will arrange for an inspection of one of every 10 installations with the jurisdiction in which the installation was made.

"This program will drastically reduce the paperwork and the headaches usually associated with simple permits for installing water heaters or electric circuits," said Sue Blatner, director of community affairs for George Morlan Plumbing.

Tim Gauthier of the National Electrical Contractors Association concurs. "I believe that the new program will not only simplify the minor label process, but will also encourage more contractors to purchase the permits," he noted.

Information about the service center's progress toward standardizing permitting applications and procedures will be available on the Building Codes Division Web site (www.cbs.state.or.us/bcd) in mid-June. Visitors to the Web site will be able to print permit application forms, find the listing of building inspectors in each jurisdiction, link to tri-county building departments and address questions to the center.

The Tri-County Service Center is located at 123 NE 3rd Avenue Suite 440, one block north of the Burnside Bridge in the Conference Plaza. The phone number is 503-872-6731. Anyone wishing to attend the open house should RSVP at that number.

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