



Clackamas  
Multnomah  
Washington  
C O U N T I E S

A BCD field office, the Tri-County Service Center administers the minor label program and coordinates forms, processes, and application of code for building programs in Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties.

Tri-County Service Center

123 NE 3rd Ave., Ste. 440  
Portland, OR 97232-2901  
Phone.....(503) 872-6731  
TTY.....(503) 373-1358  
Fax.....(503) 872-6735

Joan Stevens-Schwenger  
..... manager  
E-mail..... Joanie.M.  
Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us

Building Codes Division

Web site ..... www.oregonbcd.org  
Mark Long.....administrator



# News Site



A quarterly newsletter for homebuilders and contractors

September-November 2005

## The Home Builders Association to sponsor September 21 code forum

The Home Builders Association is sponsoring a free forum on one- and two-family structural code issues, 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, September 21, at the Multnomah Board Room in the Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne, Portland.

Qualified participants may receive three hours of code-related credit from BCD, three hours of HSW credit from AIA or a certificate for three HSW hours, three hours of master builder continuing-education credit, or three hours of home inspector continuing-education credit from CCB.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and reach consensus on standards for the tri-county region. All contractors, remodelers, architects, and building-department personnel in the tri-county area are invited.

### Agenda:

- Chapter 6, Wall bracing prescriptive requirements
- Lateral bracing
- Engineered wood
- Open forum ♦

## Don't stand in line! BCD launches new online services for permits and licenses



Saving time means saving money. BCD offers a new online service for contractors: electronic permitting.

Building Permits.Oregon.gov allows contractors to apply and pay for over-the-counter plumbing, electrical, and mechanical permits in multiple jurisdictions through one Web site using a Visa

or Mastercard. Right now, contractors can pull permits online for jobs in the site's participating jurisdictions: Hillsboro, Portland, Milwaukie, Beaverton, and Clackamas and Washington counties. Minor labels, which contractors can use statewide, are also available through the site. ♦

## June 1 forum notes and Q&A

Local building officials have agreed to use the code panel's determinations for inspection standards in the tri-county region. If you work in a jurisdiction beyond the tri-county boundaries, please check with your jurisdiction for its standards.

Contractors and building department personnel may submit questions to the code forum by e-mail to Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us or fax questions to the center, (503) 872-6735.

**Public outreach partnership with industry: Permits Protect.** Tri-County Service Center manager Joan Stevens-Schwenger described the Permits Protect public-outreach program, which urges those making home improvements to protect the value of their homes and the safety of their families by getting permits and using licensed contractors and craftspeople. The Web site provides the information about legally and safely carrying

Continued...



Clackamas  
Multnomah  
Washington  
COUNTIES

News Site

Apply and pay for your over-the-counter structural, plumbing, and mechanical permits online at **BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov**.

Participating jurisdictions include Portland, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Milwaukie, and Clackamas and Washington counties.

out building and remodeling projects. For more information on Permits Protect, visit <http://www.permitsprotect.info/>.

**BCD update and code interpretations.** Mike Ewert, BCD code specialist, explained statewide code interpretation R101.2, of the 2005 Oregon Residential Specialty Code, about smoke alarms in residential aircraft hangars. For more information about this interpretation and other residential interpretations, go to: <http://www.oregonbcd.org/codeprograms.html>, click on "Interpretations," and then "Residential Structures" or call Mike, (503) 373-7529.

**Decks and deck rail systems.** Peter Harrison spoke about decks and deck railing systems and distributed drafts of some handouts being developed for deck builders. The code panel intends to provide handouts to help homeowners and contractors build simple single-level decks that will meet jurisdictional requirements. The first handout will give the homeowner, contractor, or designer a step-by-step list of what local jurisdictions need to issue a permit. This handout will include several drawings depicting typical connection details for ledgers and posts.

The second handout being developed will provide a more detailed guide for simple one-level decks, with drawings of general layout requirements, design provisions, and typical connections. It will tell potential builders of decks whether or not professional design is needed.

440-2737 (9/05/COM)

**Q Can pre-cast pier blocks be used for footings?**

**A** Yes, for decks that are less than 30 inches above grade at any point.

**Q If pre-cast pier blocks can be used, are they required to meet the frost-depth requirements of Table R301.2(1)?**

**A** The code panel believes that Section R403.1.5 is the applicable code reference for this question; it requires a 12-inch depth on undisturbed soil.

**Q At what height above grade does a deck require design by an architect or engineer?**

**A** The issue will be discussed at the next code forum.

**Q Is fire blocking required around all bathtub drains? What if the tub is on the first floor? Or the tub is penetrating a floor/ceiling area? And what materials are allowed for such fire blocking?**

**A** ORSC, R602.8(4) requires fire blocking around vents, pipes and ducts. The lower level tub would not need fire blocking, but would require rodent-proofing according to P2613.12.2. For the floor/ceiling penetration, unfaced fiberglass insulation can be used for fire blocking, as required by Section R602.8.1, but it would not be required to be rodent-proof.

**Q If I have a split stud wall on a 2-inch-by-6-inch plate, with a one-inch gap or space, can I fill it in with Iceyene insulation material? Is Iceyene an approved fire stop?**

**A** Yes to both questions. (This is a clarification from the May 30 code forum).

Tri-County Service Center  
123 NE 3rd Ave., Ste. 440  
Portland, OR 97232-2901



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SALEM OR  
PERM NO. 81