



Development Services April 2011 Newsletter

In this edition

- [SABCA](#)
- [NEC Updates](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [New Information Bulletins](#)
- [Building Safety Month](#)
- [Hansen Outage](#)
- [Board/Commission Openings](#)
- [Stage 1 Restrictions](#)
- [Building Business Opportunities in China](#)
- [Performance Measures](#)
- [Permit Activity](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

If you would like to receive updates, important information or notifications about special training events, please join our department mailing list.



SABCA

San Antonio Building Codes Academy Spring Session

2009 IBC Fire and Smoke Protection Features

2009 IBC Mixed Occupancies

The San Antonio Building Codes Academy will host two courses focusing on the 2009 International Building Code. The 2009 IBC Fire and Smoke Protection Features seminar will address the critical concepts of Chapter 7, the basis for the analysis and identification of required fire-resistance ratings construction and components. The 2009 IBC Mixed Occupancies seminar addresses the requirements that apply to mixed occupancy conditions, methods for regulating mixed occupancy buildings and the differences between the methods and their relative advantages. The course schedule will be:

June 7, 2011	2009 IBC Fire and Smoke Protection Features
June 8, 2011	2009 IBC Mixed Occupancies
June 9, 2011	2009 IBC Fire and Smoke



Roderick Sanchez
AICP, CBO
Director, Development
Services City of San
Antonio

Protection Features

June 10, 2011 2009 IBC Mixed Occupancies

Mr. Bob Schutz will present the 2009 IBC Fire and Smoke Protection Features seminar. This course is worth six (6) hours of continuing education credit. The registration fee is \$150 and includes a workbook that retails for \$35.

Mr. Phil Hahn will present the 2009 IBC Mixed Occupancies seminar. This course is worth six (6) hours of continuing education credit. The registration fee is \$150 and includes a workbook that retails for \$35.

Seminar check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. each day. Refreshments will be served during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks. The deadline for a guaranteed reservation is May 27, 2011. We will accept seminar registrations up to the day of each event on a space-available basis, however we cannot guarantee course materials will be available.

PLEASE NOTE OUR CANCELLATION POLICY

Requests for registration cancellation prior to 4:00 pm on Friday, May 27, 2011 will receive a full refund of registration fees. Cancellation requests received after 4:00 pm on Friday, May 27, 2011 are subject to a \$50 cancellation fee.

2011 NEC and Chapter 10 review

The Electrical Code Review Committee (ECRC) met on April 19, 2011 to review/discuss/take action on DRAFT E of the proposed Electrical Code of San Antonio. Based on that meeting, Draft F has been created of proposed changes to Chapter 10, the Electrical Code of San Antonio and is posted on the Department's website [here](#). The most recent proposed changes have been highlighted in yellow, and are reflected in the draft as either a recommended addition (underlined) or deletion (strikethrough) to Chapter 10. Underlined text or strikethroughs that are highlighted in yellow will be discussed at the upcoming committee meeting in May 2011 (outlined below) as time permits. In addition, some explanation notes of proposed changes have been added and highlighted in turquoise for your information only.

The following are the remaining dates, times, topics and location of the ECRC meetings:

05/03/11 Chapter 10, Articles 1-10, 1402.15 of DRAFT F 9:00a-11:00a Board Room

05/17/11 Related Information Bulletins & Code Interpretations 9:00a-11:00a Board Room

Should you have any questions, please contact Barry Archer at 210-207-8236 or Barry.Archer@sanantonio.gov

Lunch and Learn

Development Services hosts monthly Lunch and Learn training sessions taught by experts in their respective disciplines. These sessions cover key issues in the development process, address current trends and concerns, and provide beneficial information to our customers, community and stakeholders. Each of these FREE sessions last about an hour and a half and are held in Training Rooms A/B on the second floor of the Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, 1901 S. Alamo. Our scheduled courses are listed below.



Plumbing Inspection Concerns

May 20, 2011

For more information and registration, visit our website at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/lunchlearn.asp>

New Information Bulletin and Code Interpretation

We recently posted this [Information Bulletin](#) and Code Interpretation to our website www.sanantonio.gov/dsd:

[CI 2011-003 -Residential Exterior Door Requirements in the Military Sound Attenuation Overlay](#) - the purpose of this Code Interpretation (CI) is to clarify the types of exterior doors for residential applications that meet the requirements of the Military Sound Attenuation Overlay. The CI references section 35-339.05(c)B.4 of the Unified Development Code (UDC).

[IB 534 -Fair Notice](#)- the purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to clarify the submittal process for a Fair Notice form. The IB details treatment of permit submittals prior to and after implementation of the Fair Notice form on February 16,2006.

Building Safety Month

In May the department will be observing Building Safety Month in coordination with the International Code Council Foundation (ICCF).

Building Safety Month is presented by the ICCF, a nonprofit organization dedicated to



alleviating the devastating effects of natural disasters and other building tragedies through Consumer Education, Professional Development and Community Service.

Countless accidents still occur in homes across the U.S. and globally where codes are poorly understood or used improperly. The expanded Building Safety Month will help bridge these gaps and provide a broader platform to share the sphere of knowledge among architects, engineers and skilled industry veterans so that families, businesses and communities can be safe, strong and sustainable.

For the last 31 years the 50,000 worldwide members of the ICC have celebrated advances in building safety, and widespread interest in the campaign has grown significantly.

The department will be distributing materials to the public on the four topics: Energy and Green Building, Disaster Safety and Mitigation, Fire Safety and Awareness and Backyard Safety.

Hansen Outage

The Hansen database servers down for maintenance the weekend of May 13. The proposed time is 9:00 am on May 14 (Saturday) through 10:00 pm on May 15 (Sunday). This means the Hansen application and Hansen Dynamic Portal would be unavailable for the entire duration of the outage. Notice will be posted on the Dynamic Portal. The department appreciates your patience as we work to improve our systems!

Board & Commission Openings



Individuals who have an interest in City government and are also interested in helping to serve the San Antonio community are invited to apply for one of the positions available on the following board and commissions:

- Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals - (2) positions
- Capital Improvements Advisory Committee - (2) positions
- Electrical Board - (5) positions
- Mechanical Appeals and Advisory Board - (5) positions
- Plumbing and Fuel Gas Appeals and Advisory Board - (5) positions
- Zoning Board of Adjustment - (1) position
- Zoning Commission - (1) position

The Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals is comprised of 11 members appointed by the Mayor and each City Councilmember for two-year terms. The Board determines appeals for the suitability of alternate materials and types of construction and provides for interpretation of the Building and Fire Code. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, if necessary, at 9:00 AM at the Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, 1901 South Alamo, 1st Floor. There is only one appointee per district. For more information, please go to http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/buildingfire_board.asp.

The Capital Improvements Advisory Committee is comprised of 11 members serving two-year terms. The Committee advises and assists in the implementation of the impact fee process pursuant to Chapter 395 of the Local Government Code which establishes the

method for municipalities to impose impact fees for recouping the cost of off-site capital improvements necessitated by new development. The Committee also serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council with recommendations for the development of the Land Use Assumptions, impact fee related Capital Improvements Plans and in the calculation of the impact fees. The Committee meets as needed. Meetings are usually held on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM at the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) offices located at 2800 US Highway 281 North.

The Electrical Board consists of 11 members appointed by the Mayor and each City Councilmember. Members serve two-year terms. The Board hears and decides appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the code official relative to the application and interpretation of this code. Meetings are held quarterly (at minimum) on the second Tuesday, at 9:30 AM at the Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, 1st floor, 1901 S. Alamo. Meeting duration is approximately one to two hours. There is only one appointee per district. For more information, please go to http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/electrical_board.asp.

The Mechanical Board of Appeals is comprised of 11 members appointed by the Mayor and each City Councilmember for two-year terms. The Board determines the suitability of alternate materials and methods of installation, and provides for reasonable interpretations of the Mechanical Code. The Board hears all appeals from decisions of the Director of Development Services respecting the construction, application, and enforcement of the Code. Meetings are held quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM in the Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, 1901 South Alamo, 1st Floor. Meeting duration is usually one to one and a half hours. There is only one appointee per district. Where 2 are listed one is serving in a holdover capacity and a new category is being advertised. For more information, please go to http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/mechanical_board.asp.

The Plumbing and Fuel Gas Appeals and Advisory Board is comprised of 11 members appointed by the City Council for two-year. The Board has jurisdiction over all appeals from decisions made by the Director of Development Services which relate to plumbing installation, and recommends to the City Council any amendments to the Plumbing Code. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, Board Room, 1st Floor, 1901 S. Alamo. Meeting duration is usually one to one and a half hours. For more information, please go to http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/plumbing_board.asp.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is comprised of 11 members appointed by the Mayor and each City Councilmember and six (6) alternates appointed at-large for two-year terms. Members receive \$20.00 per meeting, not to exceed \$1,040 per annum. The Board hears variances and appeals related to the enforcement of Chapter 28, Signs and Billboards and Chapter 35, the Unified Development Code (UDC). The concurring vote of nine (9) members of the Board is necessary to approve a variance. The Board adopts a schedule of meetings each calendar year. Meetings are held at the Board Room of the Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, 1901 South Alamo, 1st Floor. For more information, please go to <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/boardofadjustments.asp>.

The Zoning Commission is comprised of 11 members appointed by Mayor and each City Councilmember for two-year terms. Members serve at the will of the City Council until replaced. Members are compensated \$20.00 per meeting not to exceed \$1,040 per annum. The Commission holds public hearings and makes recommendations to the City Council on zoning district boundary changes and regulations in zoning districts. Meetings are held twice-monthly on the first and third Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Cliff Morton Development and Business Services Center, 1901 South Alamo Street, 1st Floor. For

more information, please go to http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/zoning_commission.asp.

Individuals interested in serving on one of the boards or commissions can obtain an application by visiting <https://webapps2.sanantonio.gov/boardcomm/Vacancies.aspx>. For questions or for more information, contact (210) 207-7253.

Stage I Drought Restrictions

Stage I Restrictions began when the aquifer level dropped to 660 feet at the monitored well. San Antonio Water System (SAWS) recommends the following:

- You should reduce water consumption by any means available.
- All non-public swimming pools must have a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area covered with evaporation screens when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used.
- Hand watering with a hand-held hose, soaker hose, drip irrigation, bucket or watering can is permitted any time and any day.
- Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited. Health and safety exceptions to this rule may be requested from SAWS in writing.
- Residential washing of vehicles or other equipment is allowed only on assigned watering days and times. A hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle or bucket of five gallons or less may be used. Water should not be allowed to run into the street.
- The use of commercial car wash facilities is allowed any day.
- Operators of golf courses, athletic fields and parks must submit a conservation plan to SAWS. For submittal requirements operators should contact SAWS Conservation Department at 704-SAVE. Golf courses, athletic fields and parks may not irrigate between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Landscape areas on golf courses not directly "in play" are required to follow one-day-per-week watering based on address unless otherwise instructed by SAWS.
- Use of fountains, waterfalls, or other aesthetic water features - outdoors or indoors - is prohibited, unless a variance has been granted for 100 percent non-potable water use.

For additional information visit SAWS' [website](#) or call 210-704-SAWS(7297)

Building Business Opportunities in China

Business leaders and individuals interested in learning about doing business in China are encouraged to attend a half-day seminar, "Building Business Opportunities for San Antonio: A Shanghai World Expo Report" on Friday, April 29 at the Texas Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, located at 600 E. Market Street. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the seminar ending at 11 a.m.

Jose Villarreal will share his Final Commissioner General's Report to Congress detailing U.S. participation at the Shanghai World Expo.

Councilwoman Elisa Chan will also report on the progress of the China initiative since the signing of the two Friendship City Agreements of Wuxi and Suzhou, China last May. This

will be followed by a panel discussion led by Curt Anastasio, president and CEO of NuStar GP Holding, on the following topics:

- Unique Aspects of Exporting Services vs. Products and Goods to Chinese Markets
- How to Attract Chinese Investment in San Antonio Real Estate
- Why Government Involvement is Essential to Doing Business in China; and
- Preparing Lawyers for Global Practice: How to Deal With Intellectual Property Concerns in China.

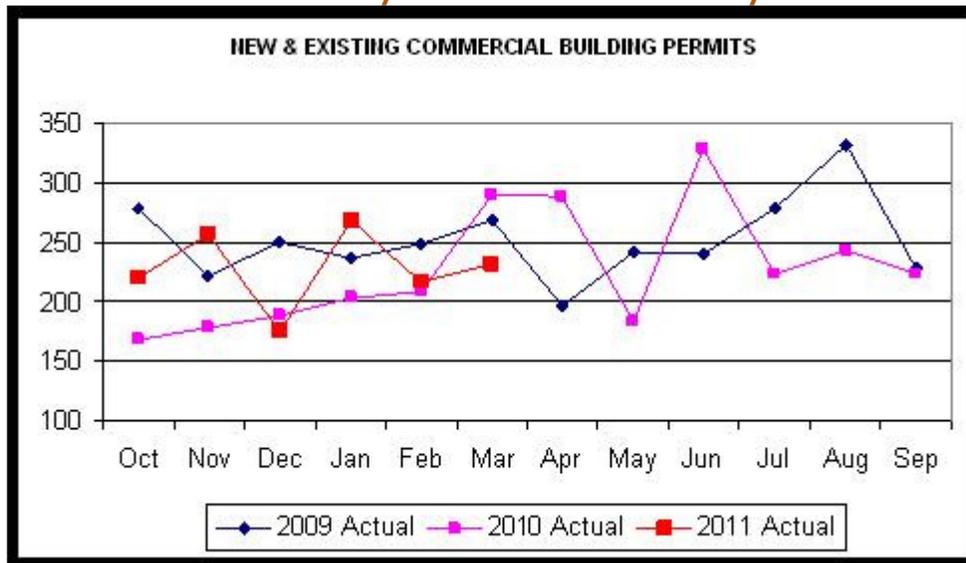
The seminar is hosted by the City of San Antonio, in partnership with the Alamo Asian American Chamber of Commerce and the Free Trade Alliance. Online registration is \$20, which includes a continental breakfast. Discounted hotel parking of \$7 is available. For more information, call 229-9036. Register online at www.freetradealliance.org.

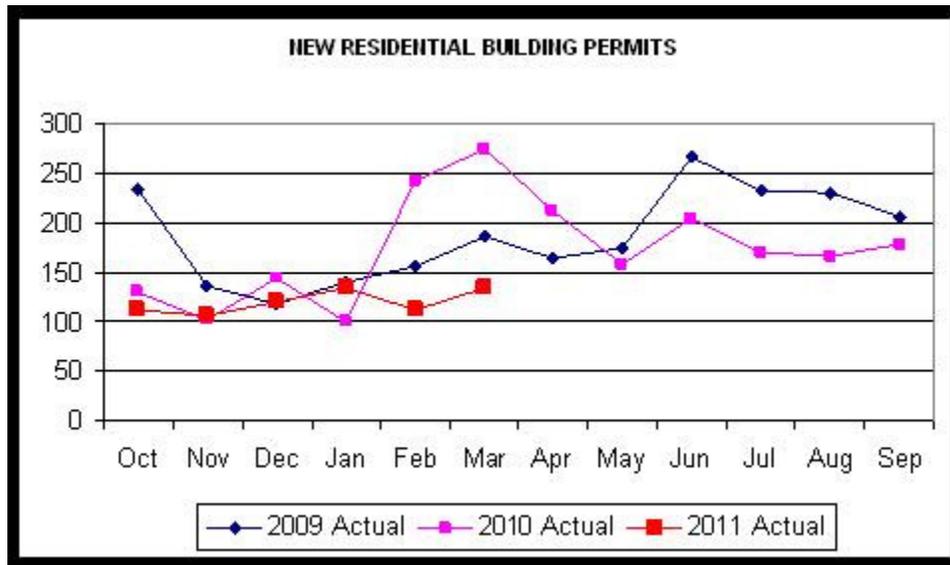
FY 2010 Performance Measures

March Performance Data:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Performance</i>
Major Plats Technical Review (Goal: 35 Calendar Days only)	19 Calendar Days(DSD)
Residential Plans Review (Goal: 3 Working Days)	2 Working Days
Complex Commercial Plan Review (Goal: 18 Calendar Days)	15 Calendar Days
Inspections Performed as Scheduled (Goal: 96%)	98% as Scheduled
Call Center Telephone Abandonment Rate (Goal: 5%)	1% Abandoned
Customer Service Survey Score (Scale 1-5, highest is 5)	4.94

Monthly Permit Activity





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