

Planning & Development Services

January 2009
1901 S. Alamo
San Antonio TX 78204
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www.sanantonio.gov/dsd

Kreutziger Obtains Highest Level of Certification



Gary Kreutziger is the first individual in the City to obtain a Master Code Professional Certification; the highest International Code Council certification for building code officials. Currently, only 600 individuals worldwide have received this designation. This level of certification requires commitment to the profession, diverse knowledge of codes, and a high level of initiative. In Gary's case, he has over 20 ICC certifications and he is not finished. Gary is currently studying to receive his LEED Professional Accreditation. His ultimate goal is to serve on a Codes & Standards Committee to help make improvements to the code process.

San Antonio Building Codes Academy Hosts Seminar



The San Antonio Building Codes Academy (SABCA) will be hosting the following seminars taught by experts in their respective industries:

- February 4th One and Two Family Dwelling Electrical Systems
- February 5th Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Design Fundamentals
- February 6th Landscape Irrigation Consideration by Design

Each attendee will receive 4 CEUs per course and all courses will held in Room 204 in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. For more information, please visit the SABCA's web page at www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/sabca.asp.

Lunch & Learn Schedule

On the third Friday of each month, Planning and Development Services offers Lunch and Learn training sessions taught by experts in their respective fields. Our Lunch and Learn sessions are free and you do not need a reservation to attend. Please bring your lunch and join us for this hour and a half training opportunity. We look forward to seeing you at one of the following events:

- January 16th—UDC Amendments
- February 20th—Braced Wall Provisions
- March 20th—2006 IEBC as it Applies to San Antonio Projects



Please email Jim Flood at james.flood@sanantonio.gov if you would like to suggest a

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New Information Bulletins

The department recently posted new Information Bulletins to its website at www.sanantonio.gov/dsd:

IB 141—Determination of Valuation for Building Permit Applications— the department developed this Information Bulletin to assist customers in knowing, in advance, how the City calculates building plan review and permit fees. The department calculates these fees based upon the project's value. Included in the Information Bulletin is a table that suggests project values based on square footage, type of occupancy, and type of construction. This table is based on national valuations as published by the International Code Council (Jul—Aug 2008) and used with the Army Corp of Engineers modifier for the City of San Antonio. The value of a project for a building permit will be set based on the higher of the valuation submitted by the applicant or the calculated valuation using the table. Please note



the table does not, in most cases, apply to additions, alterations, or repairs to existing buildings. As such, Planning & Development Services revised the Information Bulletin to advise customers the department reserves the right to request a project's contract for construction (or other proof of valuation) for projects that consist of additions, alterations, or repairs to existing buildings or when the valuation of a project appears too low. For more information contact commercialpermits@sanantonio.gov.

IB 154—Administrative Ruling on Various Sign Permit Requirements—this Information Bulletin clarifies the department's administrative process for sign permits. These rulings relate to voiding sign permits if the final inspection has not been requested within 180 days after issuance of the permit, providing timelines to request (1) final inspections for electrical sign work, (2) street banner permits, (3) sign master plans, and (4) billboard relocation permits. The information bulletin also reminds customers to submit a complete permit application with the appropriate signatures. In addition, a permit is required for all signs requiring any form of "reface" due to routine or other maintenance. Any questions or concerns regarding the administrative rulings can be addressed to David Simpson, Chief Sign Inspector, at david.simpson@sanantonio.gov.

IB 155—Requirements for Fire Alarm System Inspections—this information bulletin clarifies what documents are required to be furnished to fire inspectors before they perform a test on the fire alarm system. Failure to provide the following documents will cause the test to be cancelled and a reschedule fee will be imposed:



**San Antonio
Fire Department**

- √ Written statement required by NFPA 72, Section 4.5.1.2
- √ A copy of the Record of Completion as required by NFPA 72, Section 4.5.2.1
- √ A copy of the Texas Department of Insurance Fire Alarm Installation Certificate (Form FML-009A, Rev 01/06)
- √ Maintenance agreement with facility owner as required by the International Fire Code, 2006 Ed.
- √ Monitoring contract with a licensed monitoring company for systems, which require monitoring in accordance with the International Fire Code, 2006 Ed., Chapter 9, Section 907.15 as adopted by the City of San Antonio
- √ Approved plans and submittals bearing the original stamp and signature of the plan reviewer
- √ Copy of the Fire Review Activity form with the plan reviewer's approval comments
- √ Proof of current licensing of the contact person present at the inspection

Please refer to this information bulletin for other helpful information to make your fire inspection successful.



December 2008 Performance Measures

Activity

Major Plats Technical Review (Goal: 35 Calendar Days)
Residential Plans Review (Goal: 3 Working Days)
Complex Commercial Plan Review (Goal: 18 Calendar Days)
Inspections Performed as Scheduled (Goal: 95%)
Call Center Telephone Abandonment Rate (Goal: 5%)
Customer Service Survey Score (Scale 1-5 points—5 the highest)

Performance

58 Calendar Days (SAWS longest review)
2 Working Days
26 Calendar Days
99% as Scheduled
1% Abandoned
5

Fire Marshal Issues RID

In order to clarify the procedures for testing the minimum required audibility levels of fire alarm systems during system acceptance testing in residential occupancy, the Fire Marshal issued a RID stating televisions, showers, and bathroom exhaust fan are required to be on or running during the fire alarm audibility testing. Sink faucets and toilets are not required to be running during audibility testing. In addition, the door to the bathroom is required to be open.

Web Site Redesign

Planning & Development Services is in the process of redesigning its web site. The department's goal is to have a web site with easy to find information (three mouse clicks or less). If you have any suggestions to help us improve our web site, please contact Terry Kannawin at terryk@sanantonio.gov.

City Council Items

On January 15, 2009, City Council will consider the following items:

Proposed Amendments to the Unified Development Code

Proposed New Chapter 10, Electrical Code to include 2009 NEC/local amendments

Amending Chapter 28 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas, by altering the definition of "reface;" adding a definition for "sign message area;" and providing for refacing nonconforming registered "trademark signs" in order to prevent misidentification with other registered "trademark signs."

Please refer to the department's web site at www.sanantonio.gov/dsd for more information regarding each item.



Citizen Academy Handbook

Planning & Development Services is participating in Housing and Neighborhood Services' Citizen Academy and developed a handbook to explain the development process. This handbook is posted to the Home Page of the department's web site at www.sanantonio.gov/dsd. For a listing of upcoming training events, visit Housing and Neighborhood Services' web site at www.sanantonio.gov/nad.