

Building Blueprint

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Delivering Excellence Every Day

**Miami-Dade County
Building Department
Miami-Dade County
Herbert S. Saffir Permitting
and Inspection Center**

11805 S.W. 26 St.
(Coral Way)
Miami, FL 33175-2474

MAIN NUMBER
(786) 315-2000

PERMIT RECORDS
(786) 315-2100

VOICE RESPONSE
(305) 271-1242

WEBSITE
www.miamidade.gov/bldg

E-MAIL
bldgdept@miamidade.gov

DIRECTOR
Charles Danger, P.E.

CO-EDITORS
Miriam Rossi
Marisol Triana

Workshops held on Plan Reviews and Inspections by Miami-Dade County Building Department

A series of 13 free plan review and inspection workshops were held by the Miami-Dade County Building Department. The plan review workshops not only discussed the applicable Florida Building Code but also the most common reasons why plans are disapproved including what architects and engineers can do so that their plans are approved upon first submittal. This helpful information for design professionals was offered to assist in expediting the issuance of permits by reducing the rejection rates on submitted plans thereby reducing permit issuance cycle times.

In addition, workshops were held to present the most common causes for inspection disapprovals and what contractors can do to increase inspection approvals. The applicable Florida Building Code requirements were also discussed.

The workshop was also attended by a Grand Bahama Port Authority Mechanical Code Official, Mr. Sherwin W. Mullings. Mr. Mullings attended the Mechanical Plan Review Workshop and mentioned that the Bahamas may be interested in adopting the

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Pictured standing from left to right are presenters of the Building Inspection Workshop: Pedro Estopiñan, Assistant Building Inspections Section Supervisor; Freddy Valderrama, Building Inspections Section Supervisor; and Flavio Gomez, Building Division Director.



Pictured are presenters of the Structural Plan Review Workshop from left to right: Robert Valdes, Structural Plans Processing Section Supervisor and Flavio Gomez, Building Division Director.



Pictured standing from left to right are presenters of the Mechanical Inspection Workshop: Gerald Somerset, Mechanical Inspections Section Supervisor and Harold Schoendorf, Mechanical Division Director. Pictured seated at front is presenter of online permitting services, Laura Manos, Computer Services Manager.



Pictured standing is presenter of the Mechanical Plan Review Workshop, Harold Schoendorf, Mechanical Division Director with Harry Stultz, Mechanical Plans Processing Section Supervisor, at head table.

Building Blueprint is published quarterly and welcomes comments, suggestions and submissions.

Write to:

*Miami-Dade County Building Dept.,
Communications and
Public Information Section,
11805 S.W. 26 Street (Coral Way),
Rm. 208, Miami, FL 33175-2474 or
e-mail to bldgdept@miamidade.gov*

Director's Message

Planning for the Future by Building on the Past



This hurricane season, Katrina became a poignant reminder of the vulnerability of human life and property as it leashed its' fury onto the Gulf Coast and left in its' aftermath, the human tragedy of lost lives; displaced families seeking shelter and food; cities under water and catastrophic destruction. Hurricane Katrina had made earlier

landfall in Southeast Florida on August 25th as a Category 1 before raging ashore into the Gulf Coast states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi on August 28th as a Category 4. Even as a Category 1, Katrina had sustained winds and rain that toppled an overpass under construction onto State Road 836, the Dolphin Expressway; flooded homes and streets; left thousands without power; caused tornado damage to properties; and caused human fatalities. But it left its most catastrophic disaster for the Gulf Coast states that were declared major disaster areas by the federal government.

Natural disasters such as Katrina, Andrew and most recently Wilma, are reminders of the importance for maintaining strong and stringent building codes and enforcement policies to protect life and property. Thirteen years ago, Hurricane Andrew taught South Florida that shoddy construction and lax building code enforcement contributed nearly as much to the severity of the disaster as did Mother Nature. Tough uniform building code standards and strict enforcement practices ensued Andrew. Miami-Dade County adheres to the more stringent code requirements of the High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ) Chapters of the Florida Building Code (FBC) that became effective March 1, 2002. Stringent code provisions have become increasingly essential in both coastal and non-coastal areas of the state of Florida as evidenced by the path of four hurricanes in 2004 (Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne) that struck various sections of our state and supported by the predictions of increased hurricane activity in the current and coming years.

This year, Governor Jeb Bush signed Senate Bill 442 to adopt the FBC 2004 edition, effective October 1, 2005. The Building Department is prepared for the new code changes and extended free and informative workshops to discuss the new requirements. An article on the workshops can be found inside this newsletter including other helpful hurricane-related information.

In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, the Gulf Coast states are receiving an outpouring of much needed help as they begin to recover and rebuild their lives. With no doubt, discussions about stronger construction standards to further safeguard the sanctity of lives will follow. Together, we can all make the difference in helping our neighbors and local communities recover and rebuild.

Hurricane Tie-Down

In the event of a HURRICANE WATCH by the National Weather Service

Secure worksites

Fasten down or remove all hazardous objects

This includes all loose items such as:

- Construction shacks
- Temporary toilets
- Roofing tiles and insulation boards
- Other stored building materials
- Trash
- Forms, etc.
- Structures that are not secure
- Temporary electric service poles
- Protect all glass areas with storm shutters
- Construction equipment

In accordance with Section 8-16 of the Miami-Dade County Code and by order of the Miami-Dade County Building Department for unincorporated Dade County and the City of West Miami.

NOTICE

- Any electrical outlet or device exposed to flood waters needs to have the wires dried. Replace the electrical outlet and have the system checked by a certified electrician before turning on the circuit breakers and energizing the outlet for use.
- All dry wall damaged or wet from the storm needs to be removed to prevent molding.
- All carpeting damaged or wet from the storm needs to be removed to prevent molding.

Miami-Dade County Building Department

Building Department Mission Statement

To provide efficient, accountable and responsive building permit processing and to enforce regulations governing buildings and unsafe structures while responding to the building industry and protecting the citizens.

notices

Notice of Florida Statutes 553.79 (2)

This notice shall serve to remind building owners, design professionals, contractors and building officials that prior to obtaining or issuing a permit for construction, erection, alteration, modification, repair or demolition of any building; plans for such must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate certified fire safety inspector as indicated in Florida Statutes 553.79 (2). For municipal governments processing building permit applications, the fire safety inspector shall be the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Bureau of Fire Engineering located at the Permitting and Inspection Center (first floor), 11805 SW 26 Street (Coral Way).

Only one and two family detached residential dwellings are exempt from this requirement as indicated in F.S. 553.79 (12) and that

determination is solely the responsibility of the Fire Marshall or designee. If a plan submitted is determined to be "not applicable" to the Fire Bureau's review, the plan will be stamped as such and returned to the customer. If you have questions on this procedure, please see the Miami-Dade Fire Engineering Bureau or call 786-315-2771 from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding legal holidays.

Web Enhancements (e-Checking)

The Building Department's webpage allows customers to pay with checks through e-Checking found in the Pay Fees online permit application at www.miamidade.gov/bldg

Payment of Code Enforcement Violations

The payment of code enforcement violations issued by the Building Department will be accepted at the window of the Clerk of Courts' County Recorder's West Dade Branch Office located at the Permitting and Inspection Center, 11805 SW 26 Street (Coral Way), second floor (Room 207), from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding legal holidays.

e-Permitting Application

Qualified contractors can submit applications for subsidiary and stand-alone permits for the electrical, mechanical, plumbing and gas trades as well as pay the fees and print the permit card from an Internet browser. Visit the Building Department's website at www.miamidade.gov/bldg and click onto e-Permitting for more information.

Resolution R-886-05

Effective July 18, 2005, the Building Department no longer accepts permit applications without the property owner's notarized signature. On July 7, 2005, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution R-886-05, which requires the written consent of the property owner by signature on the permit application prior to acceptance and processing. If you have questions on this procedure, please see the Permit Records Section at the Permitting and Inspection Center on the first floor or call 786-315-2100 from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding legal holidays.

Executive Order #05-182:

Contractor Licensing for Roofing within the State of Florida

The Office of the Governor has issued Executive Order #05-182 on September 16, 2005. This Order allows Florida licensed residential, building and general contractors to perform roofing repairs and re-roofing throughout all the Counties in the State of Florida, subject to the limitations noted below.

The scope of the previous Executive Order #05-148 is amended and expanded such that the provisions of Section 489, 113(3) of the Florida Statutes are suspended in all Counties in the State of Florida to the extent that a certified general, building or residential contractor is not required to subcontract roofing

work for the repair or installation of roofs made of wood shakes, asphalt or fiberglass shingles. This Order does not include metal, built-up or tile roofing systems.

Pursuant to Section 252.36(2) of the Florida Statute, this Executive Order shall expire 60 days from the date it was issued unless extended.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Miami-Dade Building Code Compliance Office, Code Compliance Investigation Unit, at (305) 375-5891.

Building Community Service

THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT IS GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED...

Volunteering at Miami Habitat for Humanity's Building Blitz 2005

A team of Building Department inspectors and plans processors volunteered their help and expertise to build homes for low-income families in Liberty City as part of Miami's Habitat for Humanity Building Blitz 2005.

The Building Department joined together with 20 other County departments for a team force effort of more than 500 County employees that helped with such tasks as framing and roofing. Miami-Dade County volunteers also helped with landscaping and painting while working alongside the future owner of the home.

Habitat staff members on site repeatedly praised the enthusiasm and hard work of the County's volunteers in this annual event that helps the local community.



Pictured on the rooftop are several Building Department inspectors and plans processors volunteering of their expertise at the Habitat for Humanity Building Blitz.

Hurricane Katrina Collection Relief Efforts by Building Department for the Gulf Coast

The donation of much needed items such as water, non-perishable canned foods, flash lights and more were given through an overwhelming response of generosity by Building Department employees as well as the various County departments and the general public at the Miami-Dade County Herbert S. Saffir Permitting and Inspection Center.

Additionally, several Building Department employees volunteered with sorting and packing at the collection warehouse. The collected items were delivered via a convoy of trucks over the Labor Day weekend.

Monetary donations were also given by many employees to such organizations as the American Red Cross to help our neighbors in need.



Photos of Miami-Dade County's Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Drop off your used cell phones to the new Dial-A-Life West Dade Collection Center

The Miami-Dade County Herbert S. Saffir Permitting and Inspection Center (Building Department) located at 11805 S.W. 26 Street (Coral Way), has become a new collection center for Dial-A-Life. Donate your used, disconnected digital cell phones to help local, disabled, low-income and domestic violence victims through Miami-Dade County's Dial-A-Life Program. The donated phones are reprogrammed so eligible and at risk residents



Donate your used cell phones to Miami-Dade County's Dial-A-Life Program to help local disabled, low-income and domestic violence victims. Collection box located on second floor (Room 208) of Permitting and Inspection Center.

can call 911 for emergency assistance. A collection box is conveniently located on the second floor of the Permitting and Inspection Center in Room 208 (Communications & Public Information Section). Tax receipts are also available for your donated cell phones. To contact this collection site, call the Building Department's Communications & Public Information Section at (786) 315-2296. For further information, visit www.miamidade.gov/dialalife or call (305) 375-DIAL (3425). *Your Donation. Their Salvation. Dial-A-Life.*

Workshops *continued from page 1*

Florida Building Code since we share the same weather conditions of hurricanes as well as experiencing an increase in active hurricane seasons.

Notices of future workshops will be posted on the Building

Department's website of www.miamidade.gov/bldg. All workshops are held at the Miami-Dade County Herbert S. Saffir Permitting and Inspection Center, 11805 S. W. 26 Street (Coral Way), in Conference Rooms I & J on the second floor.



Pictured standing is presenter of the Plumbing Inspection Workshop: Luis Garcia, Plumbing Inspections Section Supervisor with presenter Gary Perkins, Plumbing Division Director, seated near laptop computer.



Pictured in front are presenters of the Plumbing Plan Review Workshop: Victor Fox, Plumbing Plans Processing Section Supervisor seated at laptop table and Gary Perkins, Plumbing Division Director, at head table.



Pictured standing is presenter of the Electrical Plan Review Workshop, Victor Lombardi, Electrical Plans Processing Section Supervisor.



Pictured standing is presenter of the Electrical Inspection Workshop, Rick Abin, Electrical Field Unit Supervisor.

Florida Building Code Change

Effective October 1, 2005, a change occurred to the Florida Building Code (FBC). As of the effective date, all permit applications and plans submitted must comply with the 2004 FBC edition. To view a draft copy of the code online, visit www.floridabuilding.org.

For expired applications filed prior to October 1, 2005, extensions will only be granted for permit issuance when the following criteria are met:

- All required approvals of the Building Department (plumbing, electrical, mechanical, building and structural) and the Fire Department were granted prior to the expiration of the application.
- The extension is requested within 6 months of the application expiration date and:
 - Written confirmation is received by all Miami-Dade County departments (Department of Planning & Zoning, Department of

Environmental Resources Management and Public Works) stating that they are ready to enter approval in the system so the permit can be granted.

- The applicant presents proof that they are ready to pay all permit fees (check or credit card) and secure the permit.

The extension will be granted for a 10-day period to allow entry of approvals by pending departments, payment of the outstanding fees and issuance of the permit. These requests will only be processed through the Executive Office of the Building Department.

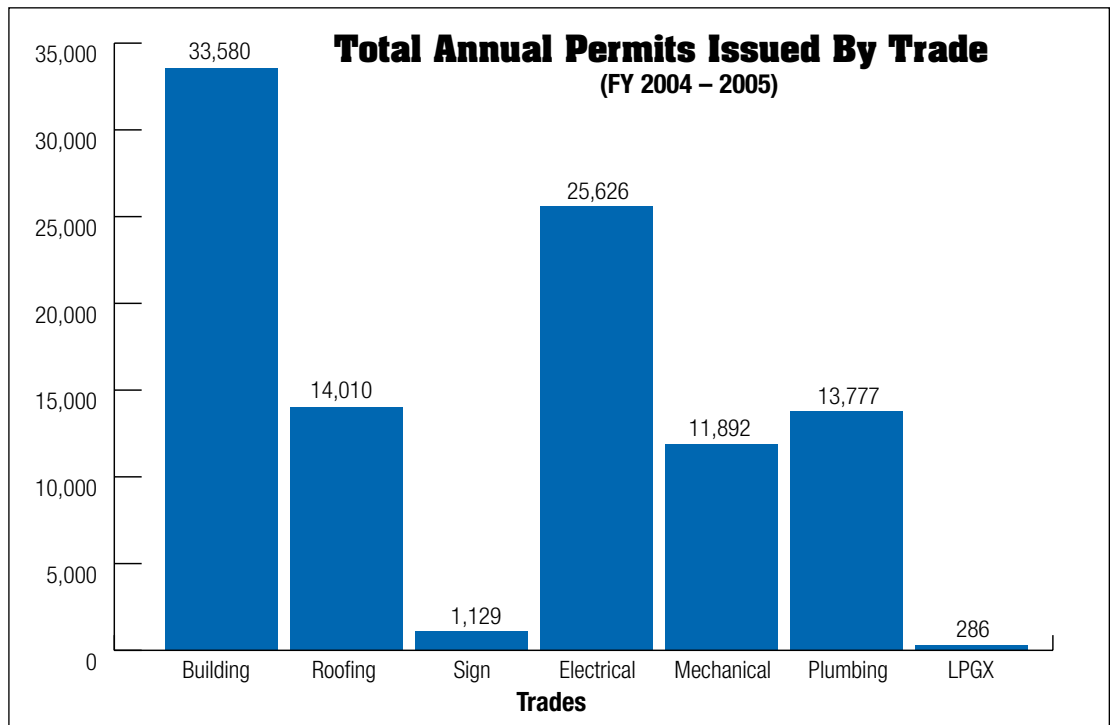
Expired process numbers that do not meet the aforementioned criteria will not be extended. The applicant will be required to obtain a new process number, pay up-front fees and submit plans that conform to the 2004 FBC edition.

Statistics

The annual statistics for the Fiscal Year (FY) of October 2004 — September 2005 for permits issued by the Miami-Dade County Building Department are exhibited in the bullets and graph as follows:

- 100,300 permits issued
- In addition, there were:
 - 141,861 plans processed (walk-thrus); 66,429 (revisions); 59,063 (drop-offs)
 - 499,921 inspections conducted

Performance Statistics can also be viewed on our website of www.miamidade.gov/bldg.



Customers can rate the County's permitting and land development services by logging onto the Building Department homepage of www.miamidade.gov/bldg then clicking the survey link found under Important Notices. The information collected will be used to improve services for the delivery of excellence while enforcing building regulations and protecting Dade County residents every day. Survey boxes are also conveniently located in the Miami-Dade County Herbert S. Saffir Permitting and Inspection Center, 11805 SW 26 Street (Coral Way).