



# CUSTOMER SERVICE BULLETIN

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## **BUILDING SAFETY MONTH Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World**

Today marks the first day of Building Safety Month, which will focus on “**Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World.**” In a global pandemic, these words have far greater meaning to all of us, than ever before.

The Prince William County Department of Development Services is proud to participate with the International Code Council in the 40th annual Building Safety Month. By working together, we have all made a difference in ensuring our residents and businesses that live, learn, work, play and worship are safe in a strong and resilient built environment in Prince William County.

“Building Safety Month is a wonderful opportunity for the Code Council, alongside its stakeholders and partners, to demonstrate how the path to safer communities begins with modern codes and standards,” said Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. “By focusing on a different topic each week, we will highlight ways individuals can work to make their own communities safer and better prepared for events like extreme weather, earthquakes and fires.”

Today, with many residents staying at home, they can trust that they are in a safe environment, thanks to the state and county codes upheld by the Prince William County Department of Development Services, the lead development services agency, and its local industry, business and utility partners.

Wade Hugh, Director, Department of Development Services, Prince William County said: “We’re in the business of assisting customers with their projects while at the same time ensuring the safety of the public and the protection of the natural environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Building Safety and Maintaining a Healthy Work Environment, has forged innovation that is more technology-driven.”

“To date we have more online connectivity to our employees and customers, than ever before, with brand new services, such as: a dedicated COVID-19 Response webpage; a brand new Customer Electronic Plan Review (ePlan) Guide; Remote Video for Construction Inspections and for Special Inspections; a COVID-19 Self Certification form which now includes the installation of gas appliances, solar panels, and car chargers; Temporary Signs usage reminder; and Customer Service E-Bulletins to share important changes from County agencies and partners,” added Hugh.

Building Safety Month is an educational, interactive campaign that takes place worldwide every May. It raises awareness about the importance of building codes and a strong system of code enforcement.

In the following weeks, please be on the lookout for more information featuring the weekly themes for 2020, which are:

- Week One, May 1-10: Disaster Preparedness
- Week Two, May 11-17: Water Safety
- Week Three, May 18-24: Resiliency. Sustainability. Innovation.
- Week Four, May 25-31: Training the Next Generation

The Department of Development Services was formed with the purpose of providing service to the County’s development customers with a partnership approach, aimed towards streamlining the development process and helping customers navigate the myriad of rules, regulations and policies in the most efficient and timely manner possible.

As we continue to redefine our services to best suit the needs of our customers and the business community, we are very interested in hearing ideas for improvement for the

#BuildingSafety365 #PrinceWilliamStrong #WereInThisTogether

Visit our website

Adopting the latest building codes generate a benefit of **\$11 for every \$1 invested.**



\*According to a 2019 NISS study.

**2.2 billion people don't have access to clean drinking water.\***

The I-Codes help communities ensure clean water through proper construction, conservation and safe disposal.



\*According to World Economic Forum.

Model building energy codes will save homeowners and businesses up to **\$126 billion in energy costs.\***



\*The U.S. Department of Energy

To prepare the building industry for the future,

**more than 56 schools across the country**

participate in the Code Council's Technical Training Program.



### DDS Allows New Electronic Submissions

Effective April 22, 2020, all **new** Building Construction Plan submissions that meet the criteria in the Customer Electronic Plan Review (ePlan) Guide found [here](#), are required to be submitted electronically.

[Find ePlans here >>](#)



### Important Inspections Changes

**Remote (Video) Inspections Process** - Effective April 13, 2020, all Building Construction Inspections and all Special Inspections will be performed remotely via video. Find out more...

**Building Inspections** - [More information](#)

**Special Inspections** - [More information](#)



### Legal Temporary Signs Usage

Please be aware that new or additional signs require permits to meet local ordinance regulations. These regulations are in place, so they do not become safety hazards.

[See the full how-to apply guide>](#)