

Building Safety News

May 2009

C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

Volume 4, Issue 1

Weathering the Storm

By C. Kelly Pearce, *Administrator*



Charles Dickens' 1859 novel *A Tale of Two Cities* begins: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." This, I believe, is a statement that could well be applied to the times in which we currently live.

We're all aware of the continued downturn in the economy here in Idaho

and across the nation. Most experts agree that while there are glimmers of hope, we have not yet hit the economic bottom. Here at DBS, dramatic downturn in permits and inspections has forced us to make some tough economic decisions. The need for these decisions is a reflection of how difficult it must be for Idaho's tradesmen and contractors to keep their heads above water.

Still, there are some positive opportunities that come as a

consequence of these times. One obvious result of our current economic situation is that it presents a great opportunity to hire talented people. If a business has the ability and the need to bring on someone with a specialty skill, there is no better time. Many capable and well-trained individuals in all fields are seeking employment. It is also a great time to bolster the loyalty of established employees. Workers who know they are valued perform better.

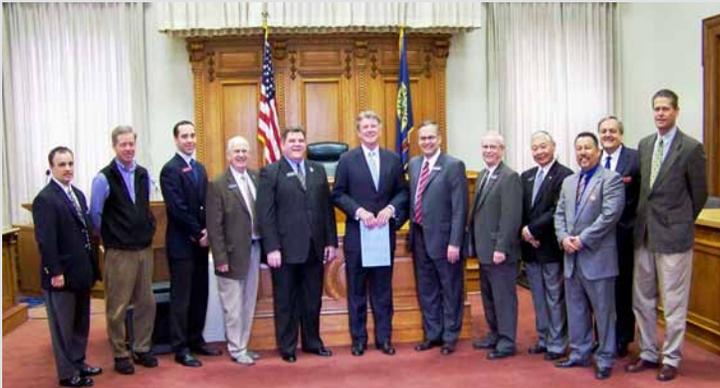
Companies that make use of this time to improve their skills and streamline their business processes will not only have a much greater chance of survival but are more likely to come out of this downturn stronger than they were before. Today's economic realities have made it easier to determine what is *wanted* and what is *essential*.

As a dedicated fund agency, where 100% of our operational

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Legislature Approves Revamp of School Plan Review

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*



Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter joins sponsoring legislators and interested parties from Idaho school districts to celebrate the signing into law of House Bill 251

Responding to pleas from a number of Gem State school districts, the Idaho Legislature this year passed, and Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law, a measure altering the landscape with regard to new construction plan reviews for public schools.

Under existing law, the Division of Building Safety (DBS) is required to review plans for virtually all public school construction projects in order to ensure their compliance with applicable plumbing, electrical, HVAC, energy conservation and life safety codes. In some cases, school districts have also been required to submit their plans to local jurisdictions for similar review.

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DBS Administrator Kelly Pearce addresses the Idaho Plumbing Code Subcommittee at their initial meeting in Meridian.

2009 Uniform Plumbing & Solar Code Under Review

By Carl Lohrengel, *Plumbing Bureau Chief*

At its meeting in February, 2009, the Idaho Plumbing Board voted to form a subcommittee with the assigned responsibility of reviewing the contents of the 2009 Uniform Plumbing and Solar Codes for possible adoption by the State of Idaho. The subcommittee is currently reviewing the codes as they pertain to Idaho and its needs. Members of the subcommittee have solicited and are compiling suggestions which will be used to change and customize the codes. The modified codes will then, when approved by the Plumbing Board and the Idaho Legislature, become the Idaho State Plumbing Code.

The subcommittee is comprised of 10 individuals from around the state with backgrounds in plumbing, solar installations, inspectors and city officials. The subcommittee has been busy reviewing and revising the code in order to present a rough draft at the May board meeting. The subcommittee has been divided into two teams each with specific chapters to review. If you have a suggestion for a modification to the code you must fill out a "Proposed Change" sheet found at <http://dbs.idaho.gov/plumbing/UPC.html>. Download, fill out and send, or fill out and send the form electronically to:

- Ed Howland for chapters 1-6 & 16
bettsue86@aol.com
- Garret Christofferson for chapters 7-11
garretsplumbing@yahoo.com

Some of the new and exciting changes are the inclusion of the gray and reclaimed water into the body of the code (Ch. 16) and a revision of horizontal wet venting requirements. Markings on cast iron will be required to reflect the country of origin as well as applicable standards. The code will also address the proper sizing of expansion tanks and will include expanded backflow, water pipe, and drain pipe charts.

IAPMO has taken the initiative in water conservation by establishing a new listing for plumbing products. The UPC Green® label goes one step beyond the EPA Watersense® program

requiring fixtures to be more efficient. IAPMO takes the wise use of water very seriously and has reflected it in the code. It is incumbent upon plumbers to promote the conservation and wise use of this precious resource.

2009 Legislative Update

By Steve Keys, *Deputy Administrator, Operations*

The Division of Building Safety's legislative package for the 2009 Legislature included six (6) bills. House Bills 110, 111, and 112 provide for five (5) year apprentice registration periods for plumbing, electrical, and HVAC apprentices. They also establish three (3) year registration periods for specialty plumbing apprentices and specialty electrical trainees, along with two (2) year registrations for HVAC specialty apprentices. House Bill 113 allows the Plumbing Board to establish continuing education requirements for renewal of plumbing journeyman and contractor's licenses. House Bill 115 establishes qualifications for inspectors of modular buildings that are separate and distinct from requirements for inspectors currently existing in Idaho Code. House Bill 114 is a house-keeping measure that would have formally reinstated the 2006 versions of the International Codes.

All of these bills, with the exception of HB114, have moved forward through the House, and have cleared the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee. They are currently awaiting final approval by the full Senate. DBS legislation has been well-received this year, with little apparent opposition, and we expect that the provisions of the five (5) bills will take effect on July 1st; please watch your mail and the DBS website for detailed information about the changes. House Bill 114 was held in the House Business Committee, as the contents of the bill were incorporated in House Bill 220, which is a more comprehensive bill brought forward by an industry coalition.

The Division, through its many boards, also presented 15 Administrative Rule proposals for review by the House Business Committee and the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee. At this point, all of these proposals have cleared legislative review, and will be effective upon adjournment of the Legislature. Please see the separate summary of these administrative rule proposals, and refer to the DBS website for more detailed information.

DBS to Extend Business Hours in Meridian

The Division of Building Safety will again extend business hours at its Meridian office for the duration of the summer construction season. Beginning May 18, 2009 the office will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. Extended hours will remain in effect through September 11, 2009.

Customer Access System

By Janice Foster, *Deputy Administrator, Administration*



The CAS Development & Implementation Group in the DBS training center. Pictured (L-R) are Chris Wuerz, President of CRW Systems; Tina Smith, DBS Sr. Management Analyst; Christina Adaska, CRW Software Specialist; Cathy Skidmore, DBS Implementation Coordinator and Dan Haynes, CRW IT Programmer.

On February 3, 2009 the long awaited Customer Access System (CAS) went into production at the Division of Building Safety (DBS). The new software has changed the way business is conducted for both DBS staff and our customers. The new software allows contractors, homeowners, and power providers to conduct business with DBS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Permits can be purchased, fees calculated, and payments made online at www.dbs.idaho.gov by clicking on the e-TRAKiT link. Contractors can request inspections using this link and licensed journeyman can renew their licenses all via this site. First time users will need some basic information when logging in. License holders need to enter their license number **exactly as it is printed on the license card**. In addition, you will need a PIN number. The PIN number is either the last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN) or the last four digits of the Employer Identification Number (EIN) that we have on file for you.

Inspections can be requested online or by calling 1-800-839-9239 to use our new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. Both systems require the use of specific codes that identify the type of inspection needed. Those codes may be located on our website via our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) link, or you may call our office to have a code list mailed or E-mailed to you. Inspections for the next day must be requested prior to 4 p.m. Mountain Time on either system. If you have trouble navigating the system or need any assistance please contact our office at 1-800-955-3044. It is important to remember that DBS will still provide all of our services by mail or in person if you choose to visit one of our offices.

As with all new software systems, we still have room to improve. DBS has now entered into Phase 2 of the CAS project and we have heard your concerns. When requesting permits some of you have been frustrated with the site address section. We are modifying this function to make it easier to use in the near future. Search functions have also created problems for some customers and that issue is also being addressed. Many other improvements are also planned and in April we will launch Project DOX, our new electronic plan review system, which is described on page 9 of this newsletter.

We welcome your comments and want to hear your concerns regarding these new systems. If you have suggestions for improvement, please contact Janice Foster, Deputy Administrator for Administration at 208-332-7108 or Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer at 208-332-7121.

continued cover - Legislature Approves Revamp of School Plan Review by Bill Hatch

This has resulted in some districts being subjected to redundant plan reviews and unnecessary costs that have run, in some cases, into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Initiated by House Majority Leader Mike Moyle (R-Star) and spearheaded by Representative Rich Jarvis (R-Meridian), House Bill 251 amends the Idaho Building Code Act in such a way as to give local school districts a choice with regard to future code compliance plan reviews. Districts may choose to have the review performed by DBS *or* by their local jurisdiction, so long as the local jurisdiction has adopted the appropriate building codes and has on staff plans examiners holding certification in the applicable plan review disciplines. In no event will school districts be subject to redundant plan review fees in the future.

Over the past 18 years, DBS has reviewed plans for nearly 1,400 public school construction projects. The agency's plans examiners are often sought out by local jurisdictions for their expertise in pertinent codes and have received accolades from school building architects throughout Idaho and beyond.

House Bill 251 was passed unanimously in both chambers of the legislature. It will become law on July 1, 2009.



Mother and Child Reunion - Petty Officer 1st Class Allisandra (Sandi) Denson, USN (L, without uniform) paid a surprise visit to her mother, DBS IT Systems Technician Jan Maupin, in April. Sandi had been detailed to Washington, D.C. to take part in the 56th Presidential Inauguration as part of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee. She was given the opportunity to attend a number of inaugural events, where she had the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama and the First Lady.

continued from cover – Weathering the Storm by C. Kelly Pearce

funding comes from fees collected by the Division, we are experiencing the same economic pressures faced by the tradesmen and contractors who are our customers.

When Governor C. L. ‘Butch’ Otter began the state budgeting process for the forthcoming fiscal year, he directed state agencies to reduce their budget requests by 6% from the preceding year. The budget submitted for the Division of Building Safety was reduced by 6.6%.

As the economic situation continued to worsen, the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee of the legislature, at the urging of Governor Otter, ordered an additional 5% across the board reduction in personnel costs for state agencies. For our Division, this means the budget for the 2010 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 will be \$12,515,200. This represents a total reduction of 10.3% or \$1,444,300 from the previous year’s budget.

It would be nice to know that we could count on having all of the financial resources needed to meet this budget. In reality, this Division must manage to its actual income and reserve base. For example, we currently estimate our actual expenditures for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 will be \$11,525,000. If this proves to be true, we will under spend the approved budget by some 17.4%.

Unfortunately, revenue continues to decline in several key areas. Because of this, it will be necessary to make adjustments as we enter into the new fiscal year. Governor Otter and the legislature have given us some straightforward direction with regard to how we are to proceed in the face of still more revenue shortfalls.

We have already cut back in a number of areas. We have dramatically curtailed our capital outlay expense by reducing the number of new vehicles we purchase and by keeping our current vehicles in service longer. Where feasible, we have purchased vehicles other than 4-wheel-drive pickups – realizing a dramatic reduction in overall purchase costs. Large savings have been seen in the operational area through the purchase of more fuel-efficient vehicles. In calendar year 2008 we realized a 14% reduction in fuel consumption. We have kept personnel costs down by consistently maintaining 10-14 vacant positions during the year.

As we approach the new fiscal year, it is a certainty that we will be required to make even more difficult decisions.

In the face of what may appear to be an excess of “doom and gloom,” there are some bright spots in the Idaho economic picture. Governor Otter and the Department of Commerce continue their aggressive efforts to bring new business and industry to our state. A number of companies have slated construction start-up dates in 2009 and 2010 for businesses to be located along the I-15 corridor in eastern Idaho. There is a new hotel scheduled for construction in the Sun Valley area. Commercial development continues in the Magic Valley and some continued economic development is scheduled for north Idaho. It is hoped that these projects – and others yet to come – represent the beginning of the turn-around for all of us.

As we work harder, smarter and more diligently to address the realities of what may appear to be the “worst of times,” let us also realize and emphasize our ability to create for ourselves the “best of times” in the days that lie ahead.

2009 Administrative Rule Summary

By Steve Keys, *Deputy Administrator, Operations*

The following is a summary of the Division of Building Safety’s administrative rule proposals submitted to the 2009 Idaho Legislature.

07-0103-0801: This rule clarifies that one must possess an electrical contractor’s license in order to advertise to provide services requiring licensure as an electrical contractor.

07-0105-0801: This docket raises the minimum pass percentage on the electrical contractor examination to 75% from the existing 70% threshold.

07-0204-0801: This rule modifies the existing administrative rule requirement for inspection tags, eliminating the requirement for multiple tags of specific colors. DBS is utilizing a single sticker to accommodate multiple inspections.

07-0205-0801: Like Docket 07-0103-0801, this docket clarifies that one must possess a plumbing contractor’s license in order to advertise to provide services requiring licensure as a plumbing contractor. It also requires the advertiser to list the contractor’s license number.

07-0206-0801: This rule formalizes the approval of and requirements for installation of non-water urinals. Non-water urinals have been installed successfully in several locations in Idaho, and contribute to significant water savings.

07-0301-0801: This rule formalizes the adoption of the 2006 International Building Code and the International Residential Code. It also adopts the 2006 edition of the International Existing Building Code.

07-0303-0801: This rule stipulates the types of actions that may subject manufacturers and installers of modular buildings to civil penalties. Authority to impose these penalties is found in Chapter 43, Title 39, Idaho Code.

07-0402-0801: This docket corrects an incorrect description of an ANSI/ASME standard. The correct title of the referenced standard is “Elevator and Escalator Electrical Equipment”.

07-0501-0802: This rule establishes the financial requirements and documentation required for applicants applying for “Unlimited” class Public Works Contractor licenses.

07-0701-0802: This is the HVAC version of 07-0204-0801 relating to the use of a single large tag in lieu of multiple specific colored inspection tags.

07-0102-0801: This docket changes the electrical permit fee basis for large residences (over 4500 square feet) to a square footage based fee in lieu of a job cost basis. This change was requested by industry.

07-0203-0801: Plumbing permit fee change for large residences; mirrors the electrical fee rule.

07-0301-0802: This rule increases the inspection fees that manufacturers pay for inspections required by the HUD manufactured housing program. The per floor fee increases from

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\$26 to \$45, and the hourly inspection fee for other inspections would increase to \$70 from \$36.

07-0402-0802: This docket changes the re-inspection fees for elevators and lifts from either \$250 or \$500 to \$100 per hour. The current fee will remain in statute as the upper limit of what can be charged.

07-0705-0801: The temporary and pending rule established the new license fee associated with the "Unlimited" license classification; it also defines examination requirements for Public Works Contractors.

07-0203-0802: This docket establishes plumbing permit fees for inspection of gray water systems and reclaimed water systems.

Editor's note: Administrative rules became effective upon adjournment of the 2009 Idaho Legislature.

DBS Established Helpline to Provide Assistance with Online Services

A number of our customers – tradesmen and contractors – have discovered the online features of the Division of Building Safety's new Customer Access System (CAS). While the online capabilities are a large part of why the system was adopted, there have been a number of issues with this aspect of CAS. For this reason, DBS has delayed a "public" rollout of these features, choosing instead to initiate a "soft" introduction in order to identify and correct technical issues that exist.

The agency is working diligently with the software vendor to remedy those functional issues that have been identified. We realize the frustration some of these issues have created and we are attacking the solutions with a sense of true urgency. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we go about this task.

In the meantime, anyone wishing to get help with the online features of the system may do so by calling our toll-free help line at 1-800-955-3044. Our friendly and courteous staff is prepared to assist you.



PWCL Outreach Advisor Heather Carr makes a presentation to members of Idaho Sub-contractors Bid Service at Banbury Golf Club in Eagle.

Reaching Out to Improve Service

By Jean Frenette, *Public Works Contractor Licensing Bureau Chief*

I accepted a position with Public Works Contractors Licensing (PWCL) in August of 2005. I soon learned that outreach was not a part of the existing program. After discussing this with Deputy Administrator Keys we approached then Chairman David Bennion. He agreed this should be part of our program and brought the matter to the trade organizations. The Public Works Contractor Licensing Board was behind us and felt the program was needed.

Legislative year 2005 saw enactment of a number of changes to Title 54, Chapter 19 and Chapter 45 of the Idaho Code. This gave PWCL a little more clout with the enforcement end of the statute. Seeing an influx of complaints, I determined public entities would be a good place to start. I feel that our major role is to educate both entities and contractors and this had been lacking in the past.

With a good map in hand I headed for eastern Idaho and visited every major community, county and every major school district. I met with county commissioners, school superinten-

dents, business managers and city officials - any person who had authority to enter into contracts.

While not always welcomed at first in some of the communities, I promised that I would be back and that PWCL was put in place to assist them not deter them. We have been welcomed back and on return trips have managed to be helpful.

If I thought Eastern Idaho was tough it was because I hadn't been North yet. I was really educated in Boundary County when I asked: "When was the last time you saw someone from DBS PWCL?" The gentleman I was speaking with said he had worked for the county for 18 years and had never spoken with anyone from our office. I promised him we would rectify that and we have.

A discussion regarding the future of the outreach program and not enough time for one person to cover all of Idaho has moved us to the present. We now have three full-time Outreach Advisors covering the state. Terry Blessing in north Idaho, Chris Jensen in east Idaho, and Heather Carr in south Idaho have all started working in their respective areas within the last year.

It is obvious they have had an impact with this program. I directed the development of a program for their use and assisted them with the initial implementation. The results have been outstanding.

Reports in for just this past March included well over 500 personal contacts and 119 for class attendance. The question and answer section of the class is one of the most beneficial, as the contractors are not at all shy about asking questions. Our outreach informational sessions have been running an average of two hours and 15 minutes in length.

If you have missed one of these informational classes and would like to attend one, call us at 208 334-3950 and we will set one up in your area.

A New Year Brings New Faces to DBS Boards

As the terms of several board members reach their expiration dates, a number of the boards hosted by the Division of Building Safety have recently welcomed new members. New members bring fresh ideas and new perspectives, thereby maintaining the diversity intended by the Idaho Legislature in its establishment of the various boards. New board members appointed in the past year include:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Board</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Replaces</u>	<u>Term expires</u>
Andrew Bick	Building	10/16/08	Tom Wilson	7/1/2012
Allan Perman	Electrical	11/04/08	Lee Riley	1/7/2011
Ted Sermon	HVAC	06/12/08	Jim Byrer	5/8/2011
Dwayne Ward	Mfg Housing	02/14/08	Todd Ritter	1/1/2011
Brian Mattson	Mfg Housing	09/12/08	Fills vacancy	1/1/2009
Rich Jackson	Mfg Housing	02/03/09	Ann Beebe	1/1/2012
Dan Long	Plumbing	06/24/08	Ray Coon	4/1/2011
Lisa Hatch	PWCL	11/25/08	Dick Anderson	1/1/2011
Alan Smith	PWCL	04/14/08	Bob Angle	1/1/2011



Idaho Mfg. Housing Board Chairman Jerry Inouye (L) thanks retiring board member Ann Beebe for her service.



Retiring Building Code Board member Tom Wilson (R) receives thanks from Chairman Ed Wagner.



PWCL Board Chairman Torry McAlvain (R) with retiring board member Dick Anderson.

DBS BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings to be held (unless otherwise noted) at:

Division of Building Safety
 Board Conference Room
 1090 E. Watertower Street
 Meridian, Idaho

Electrical Board	FEB 26 – MERIDIAN MAR 13 – MERIDIAN MAY 14 – TWIN FALLS JUL 28 – COEUR D'ALENE OCT 15 – MERIDIAN
Plumbing Board	FEB 25 – MERIDIAN MAY 12 – TWIN FALLS JULY 30 – POST FALLS OCT 16 – MERIDIAN
HVAC Board	FEB 17 – MERIDIAN MAY 13 – TWIN FALLS JUL 29 – COEUR D'ALENE OCT 14 – MERIDIAN
Public Works Contractors Licensing Board	JAN 5 – MERIDIAN APR 6 – MERIDIAN JUL 6 – MERIDIAN OCT 5 – MERIDIAN
Building Board	FEB 18 – MERIDIAN FEB 27 – MERIDIAN MAY 5 – MERIDIAN JUL 21 – MERIDIAN OCT 20 – MERIDIAN
Manufactured Housing Board	FEB 2 – TELECONFERENCE APR 13 – MERIDIAN JUL 20 – MERIDIAN NOV 30 - TELECONFERENCE
Modular Building Advisory Board	MAR 2 – MERIDIAN JUN 8 – MERIDIAN SEP 14 – MERIDIAN DEC 7 - MERIDIAN

Holidays outlined & highlighted in gray

2009



Boise State University Continues Construction Management Certificate Program

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*



Idahoans working in the various construction trades may be interested to know that the Center for Professional Development and Construction Management Department at Boise State University are continuing to offer an intense program which allows participants to earn a Construction Management Certificate by March of 2010.

The comprehensive program covers the construction process from pre-planning through project closeout.

The non-credit certificate program compliments Boise State's existing degree program but is designed for professionals who want focused training in construction management yet do not intend to get a degree. The program was created largely in response to requests from the construction industry.

In order to deliver 96 hours of intensive training to an industry already strapped for time, the course is offered during the winter, with one Friday and one Saturday session each month. The course will kick off on Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17, 2009. It will conclude on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Register by October 2, 2009 to get the Early Bird Discount Rate!

The course will cover:

- Planning and scheduling
- Managing time, money, people and resources
- Cost controls, document control, project buyout
- Claims and dispute avoidance
- Contracts, delivery and project completion
- Risk, liability, safety, codes and compliance
- Problem solving and leadership skills

Construction is rapidly becoming one of the most difficult and complex businesses to manage. Today's construction projects can require thousands of decisions and individual components. As a result, there is a demand for construction professionals who can complete projects on time, within budget and without incurring liability.

This course is designed to benefit working professionals involved in all aspects of the construction industry who desire a better understanding of today's complex construction process. They include: contractors, construction supervisors, project managers, estimators, code and safety officials, architecture and engineering professionals, project owners and representatives, construction insurers and financiers, developers, government personnel and those who work in or want to enter the construction profession.

Interested persons may get more information online at: http://cpd.boisestate.edu/courses/construction_management.html or by contacting Lyn Moore at the Center for Professional Development at (208) 426-3485 or via email at lynmoore@boisestate.edu.

Editor note: This is an update of a similar article that appeared in our November, 2008 newsletter. It contains information relative to a new course offered at BSU.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR ALERT

In order to comply with provisions of Section 54-1008 of the Idaho Code, the Division of Building Safety (DBS) will soon be making changes to its license renewal procedures as they relate to Idaho electrical contractor licenses.

Heretofore, **ALL** Idaho electrical contractor licenses, regardless of their original issue date, have expired on July 1st of any given year. This resulted in an annual flood of renewal applications in a compressed period of time. DBS had traditionally taken on temporary summer help to process these applications in a timely manner. Changing the renewal procedures will eliminate the need for and the considerable cost of this extra help.

Beginning in July of 2009, Idaho electrical contractor licenses will be renewed in the month corresponding with their original issue, or anniversary date. For example, a current license with an original issue date in October of a given year will expire at the end of October, 2009. A current license with an anniversary date in the month of May will expire at the end of May, 2010. Current valid licenses will

be granted a one-time automatic extension to the end of the month corresponding with the month in which the license was originally issued.

In the initial year of this staggered renewal system, DBS will alert licensees by mail and by automated telephone message when the time nears for them to renew their licenses. Contractors may wish to consider adjusting the renewal dates of their workers compensation and liability insurance policies upon receiving such notification.

A copy of this letter, when accompanied by a copy of a current Idaho electrical contractor license card with an anniversary issue date in any month other than July, will constitute evidence that said license remains valid until its expiration at the end of the month in 2009 or 2010 that corresponds with its anniversary issue date.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement these new procedures. If you have questions or need further information, please call our toll-free Help Line at 1-800-955-3044.



DBS' plan review professionals gather to testify before a committee of the 2009 Idaho Legislature. From left, they are: Kelleen Gornick, Rob Foster, Lisa Stover, Arlan Smith, Rusty Boyer and Russ Owen. (Not pictured: Gary Barnes).

DBS Home of the Plan Review Pros

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

Members of the Division of Building Safety (DBS) Plan Review Unit found themselves in the spotlight recently as a result of legislation introduced in the Idaho Legislature (See article in this edition of Building Safety News).

As mandated by Idaho law, DBS conducts code compliance reviews of plans for virtually all public school and state government buildings planned for construction. These reviews confirm that the projects meet the requirements of applicable plumbing, electrical, HVAC, energy conservation and life safety codes and ensure the safety of those who will occupy the buildings once they're approved for use.

Over time, DBS has recruited a team that includes some of the most highly qualified plans examiners in Idaho. Plan Review Program Manager Arlan Smith specializes in building, energy and mechanical plans. He is an ICC Certified Building Plans Examiner, Building Inspector, Mechanical Inspector, Plumbing Inspector and Building Official with 28 years of construction industry experience, 22 of those years in code compliance. Smith is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a degree in Building Construction Management.

ICC Certified Building Plans Examiner Lisa Stover specializes in the building and energy disciplines. She has attended numerous code education courses presented by national and regional building code organizations.

Plumbing plans review guru Rusty Boyer is a Certified Plumbing Inspector (IAPMO), Certified Mechanical

Inspector (ICC) and Certified Medical Gas Inspector (National Inspection Testing). He is licensed as an Idaho Plumbing Contractor, HVAC Contractor and HVAC Journeyman. He is also licensed as a Journeyman Pipe Fitter by the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union. Rusty taught plumbing design and installation at Boise State University for 8 years. His 20 years as an Idaho Plumbing Inspector include key responsibilities in the area of plumbing diagram plan review and the review of large installations to determine compliance with applicable codes.

Rob Foster specializes in electrical plan review. He is a Certified Electrical Plans Examiner (NCCCI) and an Idaho Electrical Inspector. Rob holds Master Electrician and Journeyman Electrician licenses in multiple states. He has attended and taught code cycle continuing education courses and was an instructor of electrician apprenticeship courses for 13 years.

Mechanical Plans Examiner Russ Owen is a Certified Mechanical Plans Examiner, a Mechanical Inspector and Building Inspector (ICC). He is also licensed as a Combination Inspector, Electrical Inspector and Plumbing Inspector.

Kelleen (Kelly) Gornik's plan review disciplines are Idaho General Health & Safety Standards, Building Certifications and Licensing. She is an ICC Certified Building Inspector.

Gary Barnes is an ICC Certified Building Inspector as well as a QEI (Qualified Elevator Inspector). His primary responsibility is in the area of elevator, escalator and conveyance plan review. Gary has attended numerous code educational courses delivered by national and regional building code organizations.

Paperless Plan Review – Living in a Digital World

By Arlan Smith, *DBS Plans Review Program Manager*

Construction plans are no longer drawn on the skin of a dead animal with ink. When was the last time you saw a real “blueprint”? In the office, plans on paper are becoming as obsolete as floppy disks and cassette tapes. DBS has been turning away from paper plans in the plan review program for some time. Most of the submittal we receive now includes an electronic version of the plans. This is either on a CD or by file transfer protocol (FTP) over the internet.

This spring and summer DBS will be taking another big step to use technology to better serve our customers and the public safety. We will be implementing a system that will eliminate the need for plans on paper completely. The submittal of a CD or by FTP will also not be needed. With this system, the plans, including specifications and calculations, will be submitted securely over the internet to DBS for review. The electronic format used in the download can be almost anything the designer chooses. The system will convert the documents into a proprietary format for the review process. DBS will not have copies of CAD files or other formats that could be plagiarized. This secure file will then be distributed to everyone that is required to approve the plan, including those outside of DBS, like the State Fire Marshal. Each reviewer will be able to place their comments directly on this electronic version of the plans and return the marked plan to the applicant.

When resubmittal of the plans is required, that can be done and reviewed in the same way. There are features in the system that will make it easy for the reviewer to compare the original plan with the resubmitted plan by means of an overlay, thereby speeding up the process.

This system will save the cost of printing and shipping paper plans. It will also save the time it takes to physically transfer paper plans to other locations. It will increase the speed and clarity of communications between the reviewer and the designer. There will be no storing of bulky paper plans. There is also the possibility that this will allow emergency responders and security planners to access the final design drawings of buildings in a digital format.

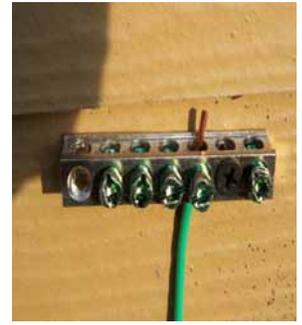
For more information, go to the ProjectDox website at <http://www.projectdox.com/>.

A Look at the Code

By Rob Foster, *Electrical Code Plans Examiner*

250.94 An intersystem bonding termination for connecting intersystem bonding and grounding conductors required for other systems shall be provided external to enclosures at the service equipment and at the disconnecting means for any additional buildings or structures. The intersystem bonding termination shall be accessible for connection and inspection. The intersystem bonding termination shall have the capacity for connection of not less than three intersystem bonding conductors.

A couple of acceptable methods



Although the code article 250.94 doesn't say these shall be attached to the wall, the listed device (above left) has mounting holes provided and instructions to mount it. The ground bar (above right) may not be listed to use this way, but the Electrical Bureau will allow it for this purpose.

Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

110.2 Approval. The conductors and equipment required or permitted by this Code shall be acceptable only if approved.

Did you notice the wire to the ground bar is smaller than the required #6? See the drywall screw? (We'll discuss that at another time.) Below right, see the ground screw in the side of the disconnect? That's what someone tried to do prior to installing ground bar.



See the green ground screw in the side of the disconnect? The intersystem bonding termination device shall not interfere with opening an enclosure.

The above left picture is an example of an installation that would not be approved based on the following code:

110.12 Mechanical Execution of Work. Electrical equipment shall be installed in a neat and workmanlike manner.

110.13 Mounting and Cooling of Equipment. (A) Mounting. Electrical equipment shall be firmly secured to the surface on which it is mounted.

Remember to have this inspected prior to the home being painted. Why? Because the painter will calk the holes shut and paint over it.



Boiler Stakeholders Gather to Exchange Information

By Al Caine, *Industrial Safety Program Manager*

On February 10, 2009 a stakeholder meeting was held at the offices of the Division of Building Safety (DBS) for those interested in the regulation of boilers in Idaho. Boilers and pressure vessels are regulated by the Industrial Commission under Administrative Rule IDAPA 17, Title 06. The funding for the program comes from fees paid into the Workers Compensation Fund by workers whether they are associated with boilers or not. By agreement, DBS provides administrative, inspection oversight, and investigative services.

Generally, boilers with a water capacity less than 120 gallons, having a heat input of 200,000 btu/hr or less at 160 psi or less are exempt. For a complete list of exemptions see IDAPA 17.06.02. Boilers that are covered are required to be inspected annually. Pressure vessels are required to be inspected every three years. Inspections are conducted by boiler insurance company personnel holding an Idaho commission. The commission is obtained at no charge from DBS by showing proof of certification by the National Board of Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

A draft of a legislative proposal to self fund the boiler program was discussed and met with significant opposition. Repealing of the current program requirements was also discussed. The reasons given were that government oversight was not needed with insurance companies already performing the inspections and the funding of the program would just add another financial burden to the owners.

The action items that resulted from the meeting were to submit a proposed administrative rule for next legislative session to repeal the boiler and pressure vessel administrative rules and an alternate proposal to adopt the current edition of the boiler codes and maintain the current program. The new codes would cost approximately \$13,000.

You can view the minutes from the meeting and the current boiler and pressure vessel requirements at our website: <http://dbs.idaho.gov/>.



DBS Industrial Safety Program Manager Al Caine responds to questions at the boiler stakeholder meeting in February, 2009.

Notes from the Field

Northern Idaho Report, By Jeri Groth
Region One Office Specialist, Coeur d'Alene (AKA Her Royal Majesty)

As everyone is well aware, the building industry as a whole has been much quieter this winter than in the past five or six years. That being said, there is still activity to report on here in north Idaho. Commercial buildings are under construction and residential units are still being built.

Walgreen's has broken ground on a new store in Hayden. Also in Hayden, Discount Tire is close to completion. While some commercial development is being left on the drawing board, other projects are moving through the planning and zoning process so work can begin when the weather becomes more cooperative.

A number of new homes are still being built in the north half of the state. We have seen a trend, however, toward smaller single family residences. The majority of new residential plumbing, electrical and HVAC permits are for homes of less than 1500 square feet.

In Kootenai County, Costco Wholesale is planning an expansion of their Coeur d'Alene store. Ground preparation is starting for at least ten 'workforce' housing units, also in Coeur d'Alene.

In Bonner and Boundary counties the ground frost is about a foot thick and once the record cold temperatures have eased, road load limits will start. A few spec. homes have been started. Numerous daily questions are fielded by plumbing, electrical and HVAC inspectors about code requirements for pending remodeling projects. The Seasons at Sandpoint is proceeding with two 4-plex buildings. Department of Lands, Bonners Ferry, has begun a remodel.

At the University of Idaho, the remodel and renovation of the Kibbie Dome is underway, as are various other projects. The Kibbie Dome project includes a number of improvements designed to enhance occupant safety.

Southwestern Idaho Report, By Craig "Pete" Peterson, *Region Two Area Supervisor*

Inspection work in Area Two has been steady and we hear encouraging things from contractors. We have several large commercial projects that are ongoing, as well as some new residential work. The inspectors have also taken advantage of training opportunities as they present themselves and have volunteered to sit on various boards. Our inspectors remain involved with a number of local organizations that interface directly with the plumbing industry.

We have several school projects underway in various stages of construction. There is a new high school in Garden Valley. There is an addition to the high school in Kuna and a new alternative school is under construction. An addition is also being made to the high school in McCall.

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In Boise, there are several projects keeping the inspectors busy. The Capitol remodel is progressing steadily and there are a couple of different projects underway at the prison complex south of town. These include the new Corrections Alternate Placement Program (CAPP) facility, additions to the private prison and assorted remodels in the main buildings. Downtown, Boise State University is building a new four-story Student Nursing Health Center.

Despite recent negative news, there are still a number of active permits for private residences in the Tamarack area near Donnelly as well as others up through McCall. There are also new condos going in as you come into McCall from Donnelly. To the south, Mountain Home is staying steady with light commercial, remodels and some new homes being built.

Southern Idaho Report, By Rick Brown *Region Three Supervisor (Ret.)*

Construction in the Magic Valley area has slowed significantly as it has elsewhere but we do have quite a few commercial projects underway.

In the Mini-Cassia area there are two elementary schools under construction, one in Heyburn the other in Acequia. Construction on the new Hi-Line chicken hatchery continues in Burley.

In the Jerome area the new milk plant is almost ready to start production. Plans have also been submitted for a new butter plant which would operate in conjunction with the milk plant. Construction on the new hospital in Gooding has resumed. They had the slab work done but put it on hold until their bonds sold.

Up north in the Wood River Valley things are looking

up. St. Luke's Medical Clinic in Hailey is advancing through construction. We have heard of plans for two new hotels in Ketchum, 54 homes west of Hailey and 300 homes south of Bellevue.

In the Twin Falls area things are slower. Schools in Kimberly are still under construction. There are a few commercial projects in the area but residential construction is way down.

Editor note: Rick Brown retired from DBS on March 31, 2009, after serving the citizens of Idaho for 18 years.

Eastern Idaho Report, By Chris Critser, *Region Four Supervisor*

While it appeared for a time as if Area Four had taken an inordinately hard hit as a result of the economic downturn, it is also the home of some of the larger industrial and commercial projects being built or planned in Idaho today.

Major projects in the planning and/or construction stages include the Eagle Rock uranium enrichment facility planned by Areva west of Idaho Falls, the Power County Advanced Energy Center coal gasification/fertilizer project near American Falls, the polysilicon plant being built by Hoku Scientific at Pocatello and a modular building plant in Montpelier. When these larger jobs all get up and running, more jobs will be created in our communities and the need will be increased for workers in the trades we oversee.

Residential construction activity remains slow throughout the area. Houses are still being built, just not in the numbers that we have seen in the past. One relatively bright spot of late is Jefferson County. A number of commercial projects are underway near Rigby and this is where most of the new subdivisions are being built.



Plumbing Bureau Chief Carl Lobregel III presents a plaque to Rick Brown upon his retirement. Area Three inspectors were on hand for the occasion.

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Boise Teacher Recognized for Safety Awareness

By Bill Hatch, Editor



Horizon Elementary teacher Jim Sower with students displays a certificate recognizing his efforts in making his classroom a safe environment.

he did some online research into ways of making construction paper fire resistant. This research led him to a recipe that used alum and water.

Mr. Jim Sower, a 6th grade teacher at Boise's Horizon Elementary School, knew from previous experience with the Division of Building Safety's School Inspection Program that it would not be permissible for him to cover the walls, furniture and ceiling in his classroom with paper unless it had been treated with a fire retardant of some type. So, when he set out to create a paper "jungle" in the classroom,

After calculating the allowable amount of combustibles for a room the size of his classroom, Sower proceeded to treat the paper with his alum recipe. When DBS Industrial Safety Advisor Lori Tinsley arrived to inspect the school, he performed a demonstration for her where he took a piece of his treated paper and tried to light it on fire. The paper would char as long as he held a flame to it but at no time did the paper ignite. When the flame was removed, the paper smoked briefly then began to cool.

Assured that combustion would not be an issue, the students in Mr. Sower's class decorated the room as a jungle for a lesson and then conducted tours for the rest of the school.

Upon hearing of this, Division of Building Safety Administrator C. Kelly Pearce wanted to acknowledge Mr. Sower's actions in protecting the safety of his students and had a recognition certificate drawn up. Mr. Sower was very appreciative of the award and thanked us very much for recognizing his efforts.