

Building Safety News

How Much Government is Enough (And How Much is Too Much)?

By C. Kelly Pearce, *Administrator*



For over half a century the Division of Building Safety (DBS), and its predecessor agencies, has served the construction industry in the State of Idaho.

Recently, in the midst of the toughest economic times most can remember, the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC), supported by the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) and the Idaho Association of Building Officials (IDABO), submitted to the Idaho Legislature H501 – otherwise known as the county opt-out bill. Had this bill passed, counties would have been permitted to “opt-out” of the statewide plumbing and electrical inspection and permitting programs administered by DBS and create their own.

A hearing on the bill was held before the House Business Committee. Because of lack of support, the bill was held and the matter referred to a working group led by the IAC for further study prior to the 2011 legislative session.

The chief argument proffered by proponents of this leg-

islation was that counties could provide faster response time, lower cost and a “one-stop-shop” for permitting.

During the print hearing, one legislator asked the presenter of the legislation: “What’s not working? What are you trying to fix? What are the concerns?” All of these questions went unanswered.

Another unanswered question, one that hovered over the entire proceedings, was why, after a half-century of service on the part of DBS, the counties, cities and building officials would request the option to abandon this long-functioning system and replicate permitting and inspection programs in all 44 counties. Could the answer be money?

What would this change mean to you?

For one thing, MORE GOVERNMENT! A one-stop-shop sounds good in that contractors and homeowners would only have to deal with one location to secure a permit or set an inspection in any given county. However, this proposal would result in 44 one-stop shops! Under the opt-out proposal, each would have its own system of permitting and inspection – and its own fee schedule. So,

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DBS Releases New Public Service Announcements for Radio

The Division of Building Safety has produced, on behalf of the Idaho Electrical Board, two new public service announcements for radio. Both are designed to enhance compliance with state laws that require all persons performing the work of an electrician be licensed through DBS.

Of the two PSAs, one takes a light approach and features the same “Cousin Bubba” who was first mentioned in a PSA done for the State Plumbing Board in 2007. The second spot is more sober in its theme, pointing out that faulty electrical work can have serious consequences.

The new PSAs are titled “Lights Out” and “House Fire” and are posted as MP3 files on the DBS website here: http://dbs.idaho.gov/Public_Service/index.html.

If you don’t start hearing the PSAs on your local radio station in the next 4-6 weeks, call them and ask if they’ve received the spots. If not, DBS will be happy to make them available to you or to the stations either by email or on CD.

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Lakeside Elementary School, constructed in 1937

Construction to Start Soon on New School in Plummer-Worley District

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

After two academic years in temporary quarters, elementary school students in Plummer-Worley Joint School District No. 44 are scheduled to begin classes in a newly-constructed school building beginning in late 2011 or early 2012.

In June of 2009, the Division of Building Safety's annual school safety inspection revealed signs of weakening in gymnasium roof support structures at the 72-year-old Lakeside Elementary School in Worley. The damage was the result of two consecutive years of above-average snowfall. Based on the inspection report, Administrator Kelly Pearce requested an on-site assessment by a structural engineering firm. It was the engineer's opinion that the condition of the roof trusses presented an imminent hazard should the roof be subjected to its design snow load.

Under Idaho law, the declaration of an "imminent hazard" requires that all students and workers be withdrawn from the affected portion of the structure until such time as the hazardous condition is eliminated. Provisions were made to accommodate

the Lakeside Elementary students in Plummer by using surplus space in combination with a number of portable classrooms.

Responding to an application by the Plummer-Worley School District, the Idaho Public School Facilities Cooperative Funding Panel, made up of the executive director of the Idaho State Board of Education and the administrators of the Division of Building Safety and Division of Public Works, convened for the first time ever and in December, 2009 approved \$11,349,435 to construct a replacement school building. The money will come from a \$25 million fund created by the legislature to afford qualifying school districts a way to address facilities identified as unsafe under the standards of the Idaho Uniform School Building Safety Act. The Plummer-Worley district meets the criteria for a qualifying school district.

A cost/benefit analysis concluded that repairing the Lakeside Elementary structure in Worley was not economically justifiable and that significant savings could be realized by building the new school in Plummer on land the district already owns. A project manager has been assigned and a design for the new school has been selected. Construction is expected to begin in the late summer or fall of 2010, with the building being ready to receive students by December of 2011 or January of 2012.



The new school in Plummer will be built adjacent to the existing school and extend from near the grove of pine trees toward the drainage swale in the foreground

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in reality, a contractor doing work in multiple counties would need to deal with multiple permitting and inspection programs, varying interpretation of applicable codes and multiple fee schedules! Any confusion that may exist in the statewide system today could increase exponentially if it were replaced by 44 separate "systems".

Is more government better government?

It's difficult to imagine how replacing one statewide system with up to 44 separate systems could do anything other than increase costs for contractors, homeowners and do-it-yourselfers. Dealing with multiple counties and their individual programs would mean contractors and/or their staff would incur additional expense by traveling to each county office to secure permits. One county may require a certain form not needed in another. Another county may demand information not required in other counties. How is one to know what to submit? Contrast this with the statewide DBS system where you have one fee schedule, one permit and a single contact to initiate an inspection. You can schedule inspections electronically by phone

using our 1-800 number or through the DBS website. Permits may be obtained by FAX, e-mail, through our website, or at one of our offices. For your convenience, they can be billed to your debit or credit card. You can begin work that same day!

SERVICE. The counties contend that inspection services will be accomplished more quickly because inspectors will be located in the county. The inference is that when DBS gets an inspection request an inspector is dispatched from Boise to the far reaches of Idaho and may take days to get there. The truth is that DBS inspectors are located throughout the state. Their offices are either in their vehicles or their homes. They are part of your community.

TRAINED INSPECTORS. When DBS speaks of trained electrical and plumbing inspectors, it refers to individuals who are required, at a minimum, to be "journeyman" certified and licensed in their respective trade. These inspectors have been hired from companies just like yours. Many were contractors themselves before becoming inspectors.

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What sense would it make for DBS to terminate these qualified inspectors and have the counties hire new people to perform inspection functions now provided by DBS? Who pays for this – and how much?

CROSS-TRAINED INSPECTORS. The counties have talked of providing “cross-trained” inspectors. A number of DBS inspectors are already, and continue to be, cross-trained. We have electrical inspectors cross-trained as elevator/escalator inspectors, plumbing inspectors cross-trained as modular building inspectors and building inspectors cross-trained as school safety inspectors.

Without significant changes to Idaho Code – changes unlikely to be supported by either the Idaho Electrical Board or the Idaho Plumbing Board – it would take a minimum of 17 years for an individual to qualify as both an electrical inspector and a plumbing inspector in our state. These are high-skill trades requiring a great depth of knowledge and experience.

We have also found that there’s a difference between inspectors that are “trained” and those who are merely “certified”. I have administrative people within DBS who are good test-takers who could easily get “certified” to be inspectors. However, I wouldn’t sleep well at night knowing that the SAFETY of Idaho citizens rested in their “certified” but untrained hands.

Reliance on such “certified” inspectors would undermine the justification of an “apprenticeship/journeyman” program for electrical and plumbing contractors. Would you welcome the prospect – and would it be of benefit to your industry – of allowing someone to become a licensed contractor simply on the basis of their ability to pass a written exam?

CODE CHANGES. It has long been the stated goal of many local building code officials to bring about changes in the various codes adopted by the State of Idaho. Could this be an attempt to further that agenda? Some have called for abandonment of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) in favor of the International Plumbing Code (IPC). Others have argued for replacement of the National Electrical Code (NEC) with the International Electrical Code (IEC). Who would pay to purchase all those new code books? How many contractors do you know who’d like to learn a new code at this point in their career? Would you?

H501 was not a proposal put forth by industry. It was conceived and promoted by a group comprised mainly of government entities. One could draw the conclusion, based on testimony given in support of the measure, that their primary interest was to generate revenue.

For these reasons and others, DBS has “drawn a line in the sand” in opposition to passage of “county option” legislation in the State of Idaho. We do not believe such a game-changing alteration of the existing system would enhance the safety of our citizens or the economic health of our contractors.

If you have thoughts or opinions on this issue, I’d love to hear them. You may email me personally at Kelly.Pearce@dbs.idaho.gov or use the “Contact Us” feature on our website at <http://dbs.idaho.gov/>.

Boiler Rules Repealed

By Al Caine, *Industrial Safety Program Manager*



With the approval of the 2010 Idaho Legislature, the administrative rules related to Boilers and Pressure Vessels (chapters 1 through 5 of IDAPA 17, Title 06) have been repealed. Any inspections, commissions, certificates, or actions previously

mandated by these rules are no longer required.

Idaho Code Section 72-720 (which was the statutory basis for these rules and remains in effect) continues to regulate the workplace safety of “equipment or machinery”. Therefore, the authority to address an unsafe condition of a boiler (or any equipment or machinery) by statute remains unchanged. (Also see Idaho Code Sections 72-722 & 72-723.)

The repeal of these rules eliminates an ineffective, insufficiently funded program that did not offer an adequate means of ensuring compliance. Boiler inspections in Idaho have always been, and are currently, conducted by boiler and machinery insurance company employees. This will no longer be required by the Division of Building Safety but may be a condition of the building owner’s liability insurance.

Workplace safety is still required. If you are employed by a private or federal employer, contact OSHA to report any unsafe workplace condition (including boilers) that is not being addressed by your employer. Contact the Division of Building Safety to report unsafe conditions at any state, county, municipality, or other non-federal public place of employment.

If you have any questions regarding this issue please contact me at (208) 332- 7153.

Comings and Goings at DBS

Since our last newsletter, five folks have departed the Division of Building Safety and we have taken on one new employee.

Those who have left DBS include Plans Examiner Rusty Boyer, Electrical Bureau Chief Jeff Fitzloff, HVAC Inspector Randy Baker, Office Services Supervisor Cathy Skidmore and Customer Service Representative Robyn West. Rusty has retired. Jeff, Randy, Cathy and Robyn have moved on to new adventures.

DBS is happy to welcome aboard Logging Safety Advisor Terry Streeter, who fills the vacancy created by the retirement last year of Don Hull. Terry is based in north Idaho.

DBS Offices Announce Summer Hours for 2010

As a convenience to those seeking permits and other services, the Division of Building Safety will expand its office hours in both Meridian and Coeur d’Alene. Beginning May 3rd through September 3rd, 2010 office hours will be from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



DBS is performing plumbing, electrical and HVAC inspections on this major expansion of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Casino complex

Division of Building Safety Performing Inspections for CDA Tribe

By Terry Blessing, *Outreach Advisor, Public Works Contractor Licensing Bureau*

In March of last year, Administrator C. Kelly Pearce executed an agreement with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe under which the Division of Building Safety now performs plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspections for the Tribe on an as-requested, contract basis.

Because of the Tribe's status as a sovereign nation, DBS performs its inspections in an advisory capacity only and assumes no regulatory role. Inspection results are reported to tribal representatives and may include recommendations for changes or cor-

rection where material or installation varies from accepted safety standards.

To date, DBS has performed inspections at 10 newly-constructed homes and one small commercial building. The Tribe has proposed a number of future projects, including a new food market and hardware store and a medical center. A new sewer plant expansion in Plummer is scheduled for completion this fall. Other planned projects include construction of 12 new homes on Agency Road, all of which will employ "green" construction methods and materials.

An \$11.3 million elementary school will soon be built in Plummer with financing made available through the Idaho Public School Facilities Cooperative Funding Program. It is anticipated that completion of the new school could give rise to construction of 12-17 new homes in the community.

In December, 2009, DBS Administrator Pearce and CEO David LaSarte-Meeks of the Coeur d'Alene Casino formalized an inspection contract covering \$50 million worth of expansion and addition work at the site of the existing casino facility. The contract will also provide for inspection work on upcoming projects. These include relocation of the existing convenience store/gas station and construction of a major events center.

As stated previously, the sole purpose of these inspection agreements is to enhance safety at construction projects undertaken by the Tribe on tribal lands. DBS inspectors are licensed journeymen in the trades they inspect and most had compiled years of industry experience before joining the Division.

Administrator Pearce referred to the agreements as "win/win" for all parties. "We are grateful for the opportunity to provide these services to the Coeur d'Alene Nation and to contribute whatever we can in support of the continued success of these and future Tribal enterprises," he said.

DBS Teams With Office of Energy Resources to Assist School Districts

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

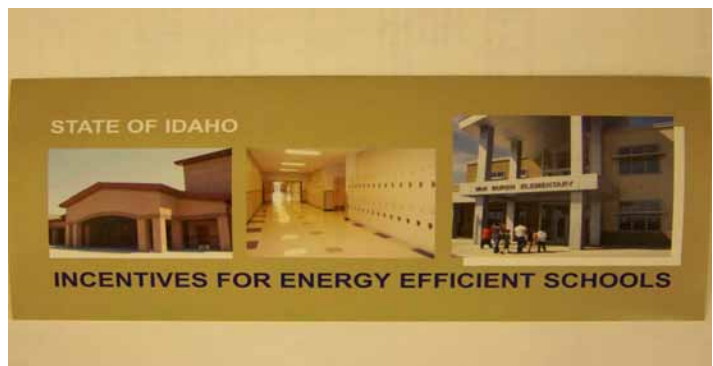
In 2009, the Idaho Legislature approved and Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law Senate Bill 1132 which is now Section 33-356, Idaho Code. The measure provides significant incentives for school districts to employ the concepts of fundamental commissioning and integrated design in the construction of new school buildings or major additions to existing buildings.

In cooperation with the Idaho Office of Energy Resources (OER), the Division of Building Safety funded the creation of a single-page brochure explaining, in layman's language, how school districts stand to benefit under provisions of the new law and how they may apply to become eligible for such benefits. The brochure is being distributed to school administrators and school district trustees throughout the state and to members of the Idaho Legislature.

A PDF copy of the brochure, entitled Incentives for Energy Efficient Schools, is available for viewing and/or download on

the DBS Web site here: http://dbs.idaho.gov/FrontPageNews/Energy_Eff_Sch_bld_Inc_6.pdf.

It is expected that the new elementary school to be constructed in Plummer may be the first public school building project to enjoy the benefits of this new Idaho law. The Plummer project is described in greater detail on page 2 of this newsletter.



The brochure summarizes financial incentives available to school districts for making new buildings energy-efficient

So You'd Like to Change the Code?

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

Over time, numerous interested parties have approached one or more of the boards hosted at the Division of Building Safety with requests to amend current or proposed code requirements. Most code amendment requests stem from how a particular code impacts, or may impact, the requesting entity. The code requirements may impose what's perceived to be an added financial burden without a commensurate increase in safety or functionality. The code requirements may be viewed as having a benefit in commercial applications but to be of little value in residential construction, or vice-versa. The list goes on. In almost all cases, boards are asked to amend particular codes because an individual or group feels that an undue hardship is being imposed or that safety is not measurably improved.

While the reasons for code amendment requests vary, the degree of success granted any code change request generally comes down to three key ingredients – justification, clarity and preparation. All things being equal – and with the presumption that a code amendment is warranted – there are steps advocates can take to maximize their chances of success:

- Identify the issue. Historical background information can be of particular value here. This is where you would provide the rationale for the desired code amendment.
- Clearly describe the proposed resolution. Include any and all documentation you feel justifies the proposed amendment. This will help guide the board to an informed decision. The more detail the support documentation contains, the better.
- Be precise in your presentation. Whether the requested amendment relates to existing or proposed code, the desired changes should be presented in the accepted format - what's commonly referred to as "code language". This is best accomplished by listing the current (or proposed) code as written, with proposed deletions shown as strikethroughs and proposed additions or new language with underlines.

Of course, it is critical to get a hearing before the germane board in order to have your request for amendment considered. Because board agendas are often set as early as a month ahead of scheduled meetings, it is advisable to submit your request at least six weeks prior to the date of the board meeting at which you would like to be heard. If this is not possible, you may always make use of the "Open Forum" included as part of all board agendas.

Guidelines for proposed amendments to the 2009 Building and/or Energy Code along with a convenient submission form are featured on the DBS Web site here: http://dbs.idaho.gov/BUILDING/Bldg_Code_Adoption_Sub_Frm.pdf. The form may be used as a guide for other code amendment requests as well.

Be aware that the code amendment process takes time and that if a particular board approves an amendment to existing or proposed code, the change may not take effect unless or until approved by the Idaho Legislature.

Requests for placement on board meeting agendas should include information about the topic you wish to discuss, along with the proposed code amendment(s) as described above, and should be addressed to Renee Bryant, Division of Building Safety, 1090 E. Watertower Street, Meridian, ID 83642.



Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter listens to a constituent at the Capital for a Day event in the Lewis County community of Nezperce

DBS Joins Governor Otter "On the Road"

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

At the invitation of Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, DBS Administrator Kelly Pearce has participated in a number of "Capital for a Day" events in rural Idaho communities. The Capital for a Day events have been a staple of Governor Otter's administration, affording residents and officials of the

various counties an opportunity to present whatever concerns they may have directly to the state's chief executive. As of March 2010, he had held 38 such events, each in a different Idaho county.

Administrator Pearce's purpose in attending these events has been to explain the various roles DBS plays in ensuring the safety of state-owned buildings in Idaho, how the Industrial Safety and Logging Safety programs bolster safety with regard to logging, boilers, elevators & escalators and school buildings and how the agency's various bureaus ensure quality in the electrical, plumbing and HVAC aspects of construction in areas where DBS has jurisdiction. Information explaining how citizens may easily access services available through DBS is also provided.

DBS participation at Capital for a Day is always scheduled in conjunction with visits to county and city offices, where the administrator has the ability to address head-on and respond to any issues or concerns local officials may express.

Recent Capital for a Day events that included DBS participation have been held in the counties of Bannock (Lava Hot Springs), Lincoln (Shoshone), Jerome (Hazleton), and Lewis (Nezperce).

Hello and Farewell to Idaho Building Code Board Members

By Renee Bryant, *Board Support Specialist*

The first quarter of 2010 has been busy with Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter appointing three new board members to the Idaho Building Code Board. The Division of Building Safety warmly welcomes the following individuals:

- Carol Alexander of Moscow fills the city building official position previously held by Ed Wagner.
- Scott Buck of Emmett replaces Doug Brown as the new fire official.
- Michael Arrington of Jerome accepts the new position as the commercial contractor representative.

The Division wishes to acknowledge and thank Ed Wagner and Doug Brown for their many years of dedication and service on the Board.

Vacant Position on the Idaho Building Code Board

After serving over four and a half years on the Idaho Building

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New Administrative Rule and Statute Changes Affecting the Division of Building Safety

The following changes were approved by the 2010 Idaho Legislature and take effect on the indicated dates. Further detail on administrative rule changes is available on the Department of Administration Web site: <http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa07/07index.htm>. Note that the detail is not generally posted until after the effective date.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 3/29/2010

Electrical

07-0103-0901: Corrected renewal dates for electrical contractor licenses to correspond with original month of issue

07-0104-0901: Corrected renewal dates for specialty electrical contractor licenses to correspond with original month of issue

07-0106-0901: Allows the fastening of NM cables that run at angles with floor joists directly to the bottom edge of the joist in crawl spaces 4.5' or less in height

Plumbing

07-0205-0902: Requires eight (8) hours of approved continuing education for journeymen plumbers to enable renewal of their licenses. Requires (16) sixteen hours of approved continuing education for plumbing contractors to enable license renewal.

07-0205-0903: Clarifies that a plumbing apprentice must complete four years of school and 8000 hours of on-the-job-experience to qualify to take the journeyman's exam.

Building

07-0301-0903: Integrated design and fundamental commissioning requirements for public schools

Modular Buildings

07-0303-0901: Qualifications for inspectors of modular buildings

Manufactured Home

07-0311-0901: Establishes a mandatory statewide setup code for the installation of new manufactured housing, and makes technical changes to licensing provisions

07-0311-0902: Temporarily eliminates continuing education requirements for license holders

07-0311-0903: Requires that new manufactured homes be installed in conformance with the manufacturer's Design Approval Primary Inspection Agency (DAPIA) approved installation instructions.

Elevators

07-0402-0901: Adopts the 2007 and 2008 versions of the applicable ANSI/ASME elevator codes, and requires the electrical disconnecting means for the elevator to be located within sight of the controller. Specifies that testing of oil buffers shall be conducted at slow speed.

Public Works Contractors

07-0501-0901: Clarifies that term "estimated cost" of a project refers to the total aggregate contract amount for the entire project.

Uniform School Building Safety

07-0601-0901: Allows for updating codes used as the basis for school safety

HVAC

07-0701-0901: Requires an inspection be requested for any installation, alteration, improvement, or extension of any HVAC system.

07-0701-0902: Requires the protection of piping, regulators, meters, and other equipment exposed to physical damage. Mandates the piping stub-out must be at least three (3) feet horizontally from any building opening, and no less than five (5) feet from any source of ignition, opening to a direct-vent appliance, or mechanical ventilation intakes.

Statute Changes Effective 7/1/2010

Examinations

H503: Allows DBS to administer its own license examinations, and imposes a test fee of \$75.

Plumbing

H474: Defines water heaters and all associated venting dedicated exclusively thereto as parts of a Plumbing System.

School Safety

H504: Expands the duties and authority of the Administrator of the Division of Building Safety as it regards violations of the Idaho Uniform School Building Safety Code that are determined to be "imminent" hazards.

Modular Buildings

H502: Changed compensation of Modular Building Advisory Board members to an "honorarium" of \$50 per meeting.

Administrative Rule Changes Effective 1/1/2011

Building Codes

07-0301-0901: Adopts the 2009 versions of the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, the International Existing Building Code, and amendments adopted by the Board through the negotiated rulemaking process.



PWCL Bureau Chief Jean Frenette (L) and Electrical Bureau Chief Jeff Fitzloff in the House chambers of the newly renovated Idaho Capitol

DBS Participation in Capitol Rededication

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

On January 7, 2010 a VIP reception was held inside the newly-renovated Idaho State Capitol. The reception, part of several days of Capitol rededication observances, was to honor the contractors, subcontractors and workers who helped make the restoration project a resound-

ing success and preceded the Grand Rededication Ceremony scheduled for the general public on January 9th. Because “The People’s House” is a public building, owned by the people of the State of Idaho, the Division of Building Safety was intimately involved in numerous aspects of the renovation.

All of the contractors and subcontractors involved with the project were required to be licensed by the Division’s Public Works Contractor Licensing Bureau. In addition, contractors working in the specialty trades of electrical, plumbing and HVAC were required to hold appropriate trade licenses issued by DBS. While the building inspection aspects of the project were assigned to the Division of Public Works, all of the plumbing, HVAC and electrical work performed as part of the restoration project was inspected, monitored and approved by DBS inspectors.

Work on the restoration project began in April of 2007 and represented the first comprehensive restoration and expansion of the Capitol since its original completion in 1920. The work added 50,000 square feet of working space to the building, including ten modern committee hearing rooms in the underground Garden-Level – the so-called “wings” on the east and west ends of the original structure. Upgrades included every major function of the building, including its strength, stability, climate-control and life-safety systems. The building’s telecommunications systems are now state-of-the-art.

The \$120 million project was completed on schedule, under budget and in time to accommodate the 2010 session of the Idaho Legislature.



Jeff Fitzloff cuts the cake at his retirement bash. We think he was already picturing himself in Hawaii!

Onward, Upward and Kicking Back

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

It is with some sadness but best wishes the Division of Building Safety bids farewell to two long-time employees who have chosen new paths to follow. Plans Examiner Rusty Boyer has retired and Electrical Bureau Chief Jeff Fitzloff has accepted a position with the renowned product safety testing firm Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Rusty joined DBS in May of 1987.



We know why Rusty is smiling

Between then and his retirement, April 30, 2010, he served as a Plans Examiner, Plumbing Inspector, Program Manager, Code Specialist and, to use his term, Bureau Chief’s Wet Nurse. Rusty’s expertise and quiet demeanor will be sorely missed. He holds numerous certifications in the plumbing, pipefitting, HVAC and medical gas fields. He taught plumbing apprentices at Boise State University for 8 years. He was continually sought out by people both inside and outside DBS for his vast knowledge of applicable codes and the technical aspects of his chosen disciplines.

Rusty and Carol – his wife of thirty-nine years – plan to retire to the cabin they’re building in the Terrace Lakes area above Garden Valley.

Jeff Fitzloff’s knowledge of electrical codes in Idaho is virtually unmatched. He travels the country teaching code interpretation skills to electrical inspectors in jurisdictions large and small and was recently named 2010 Northwestern Section President of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors.

Prior to joining the Division of Building Safety in 1998 as an electrical inspector in southern Idaho, Jeff had worked as a journeyman and/or lead electrician at various food processing and mining operations, including the J.R. Simplot Company and Pegasus Gold’s Black Pine mine southeast of Burley.

Jeff has been a teacher of code interpretation for most of his working life. In addition to teaching code update classes to local jurisdiction inspectors throughout the country and to DBS’ inspectors, he has taught 4th year apprentice courses at Idaho State University and continued his apprentice instruction at Boise State University and Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa.

Jeff’s new responsibilities as Northwest Region Code Compliance Staff Engineer with UL will keep him busy. His assigned territory includes the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Utah.

continued from page 5 – Hello and Farewell to Idaho Building Code Board Members By Renee Bryant

Code Board, Ken Sommer of Boise has vacated the county building inspector position. The Division thanks Mr. Sommer for his many years of service and valuable contribution to the Board.

Board Appointments/Applications

If you are interested in filling future vacant positions on any of the seven boards hosted by the Division of Building Safety, go to the Governor’s website at: <http://gov.idaho.gov/boards/boards.cfm> and click on the link at the bottom of the page titled “Board Application”. To apply, download the “Application for Appointment”, and open it in Acrobat Reader. You may fill it out on your computer, or print it and enter the requested information by hand. Please print your application and sign it.

Electronically transmitted documents are not accepted. To submit your application, mail to: Office of the Governor Attn.: Boards & Commissions, P.O. Box 83720, Boise ID 83720.

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This newsletter is published by the
Idaho Division of Building Safety

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Labor Department Cautions Public Works Contractors on Employment of Apprentices

In March of 2010, Mr. William Kober with the U.S. Department of Labor forwarded to the Division of Building Safety a memorandum regarding the employment of apprentice workers on federally financed construction projects. The text of Mr. Kober's message appears below:

There has been much confusion in Idaho regarding working apprentices on federally financed construction projects (Davis Bacon), including all projects funded under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

- If you work apprentices on federally funded projects, including projects funded under the ARRA, and intend to pay them apprentice wages, you must have an apprenticeship program that has been approved and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship. If apprentices are not properly registered they must be paid the journeyman scale as stated on the Davis Bacon Wage Determination.
- Registration of apprentices with the Idaho Division of Building Safety does not meet the requirements; they must also be in a federally registered apprenticeship program.
- If you intend to bid federally funded construction with the intention of working apprentices, it would be to your benefit to contact the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship (address below) prior to starting the project. Program registration takes approximately 30 days to finalize.

William Kober, State Director; U.S. Dept. of Labor, OA; 1150 N. Curtis Rd., #204; Boise, ID 83706;
208-321-2973; kober.william@dol.gov

Contractors with questions about the federal apprentice program are encouraged to contact Mr. Kober directly.