

**Building Inspections Department**  
City Council Work Session  
April 5, 2016

# Outline of Presentation

- ▶ I. Building Code Regulations
  - Brief History of Building Codes
  - Minnesota State Building Code
  
- ▶ II. Marshall Building Department
  - General Information
  - Statistics
  - Application Process
  - Department Challenges & Responses
  
- ▶ III. Summary

# The First Building Code - Hammurabi

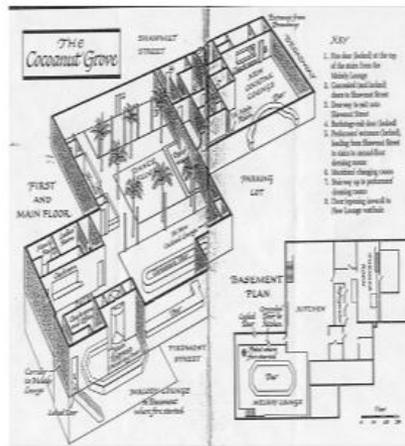
- If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
- If it kills the son of the owner, the son of that builder shall be put to death.



# Code Development History

Code helps prevent disasters. Simple flaws, like a door that swings in the wrong direction, may kill people.

- Coconut Grove
- November 28, 1942
- 492 people died trying to exit the building through doors that swung inward or were hidden, could not get out and died of Smoke inhalation



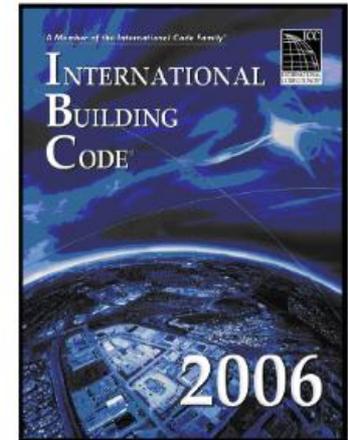
# International Code Council

## ICC Family of Codes Includes:



- **Building IBC / IRC**
- **Fire**
- **Mechanical**
- **State Plumbing**
- **Fuel Gas**
- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Housing and Property Maintenance**
- **Green Building**
- **Referenced Standards**

- The ICC Model codes are the basis of the Minnesota State Building Code (MSBC)
- MN Department of Labor and Industry creates amendments to the model codes creating the MSBC

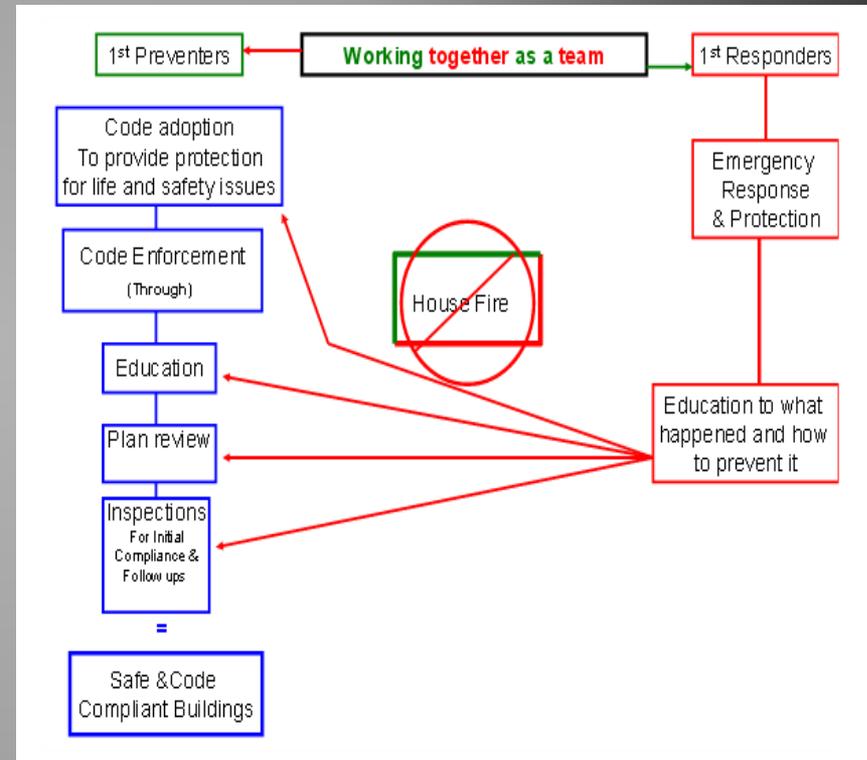


Building codes are living documents: ICC changes every 3 years, MN State Building Code changes every 6 years

# First Preventer and First Responder

Both are very important for:

- ▶ Life safety issues of the buildings Occupants
- ▶ Better built and more durably built buildings
- ▶ More energy efficient buildings
- ▶ Better ISO ratings =
  - Lower insurance rates for homeowners
  - Lower insurance rates for City itself



# Minnesota State Building Code

# MN State Building Code: Purpose

- ▶ Provide minimum Standards to protect life and limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of all structures and equipment covered by the code.
- ▶ Bottom Line:  
It is a Life Safety issue that has continued benefits to the jurisdiction and its citizens
- ▶ The purpose of this code is to establish minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

*Code is a minimum standard and can always be surpassed for actual construction if the owner or contractor chooses to do so.*

The purpose of the code is not to create, establish, or designate a particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of the code (Rule 1300.0030, Subp. 1)

# MN State Building Code

## BENEFITS OF BUILDING CODE

- ▶ Provides Consistent Standards of construction to ensure the safe construction and use of buildings built in the community.
- ▶ Maintains Market values of buildings in the community
- ▶ Provides services from the local level that increases customer satisfaction

## STATEWIDE APPLICATION

- ▶ The 2008 legislation has made the Minnesota State Building Code (SBC) the minimum “construction standard” throughout all of Minnesota including all cities, all townships, and all counties.

## HISTORY

- ▶ The SBC was been enacted through legislation in 1971 and has been in effect since July 1, 1972
- ▶ **326B.121 STATE BUILDING CODE; APPLICATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**

### Subd. 2.Municipal enforcement.

(a) If, as of January 1, 2008, a municipality has in effect an ordinance adopting the State Building Code, that municipality must continue to administer and enforce the State Building Code within its jurisdiction. The municipality is prohibited from repealing its ordinance adopting the State Building Code.

# MN State Building Code: Required Manuals to Administer the Code

- \* Required code manuals, state rules and national standards for proper application, administration, and enforcement of the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code  
<http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Codes.asp>

## 2015 Minnesota State Building Code (Rules/Chapters)

- \* 1300 – Administration of the State Building Code
- \* 1301 – Building Official Certification
- \* 1302 – Construction Approvals
- \* 1303 – Minnesota Provisions of the State Building Code
- \* 1305 – Adoption of the 2012 International Building Code and amendments
- \* 1306 – Special Fire Protection Systems (Optional)
- \* 1307 – Elevators and Related Devices
- \* 1309 – Adoption of the 2012 International Residential Code and amendments
- \* 1311 – Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings (Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings)
- \* 1315 – Adoption of the 2014 National Electrical Code
- \* 1322 – Residential Energy Code
- \* 1323 – Commercial Energy Code
- \* 1325 – Solar Energy Systems
- \* 1335 – Flood proofing Regulations
- \* 1341 – Minnesota Accessibility Code
- \* 1346 – Adoption of the 2012 International Mechanical / Fuel Gas Codes
- \* 1350 – Manufactured Homes
- \* 1360 – Prefabricated Buildings
- \* 1361 – Industrialized / Modular Buildings
- \* 1370 – Storm Shelters (Manufactured Home Parks)
- \* 4714 – Minnesota Plumbing Code (Will take effect January 23, 2016)

- \* Required code manuals, state rules and national standards for proper application, administration, and enforcement of the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code  
<http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Codes.asp>

- \* 2012 International Building Code
- \* 2012 International Residential Code
- \* 2012 International Fire Code (Pending adoption in spring of 2016)
- \* 2012 International Mechanical Code
- \* 2012 International Fuel Gas Code
- \* 2014 National Electrical Code (NFPA 70)
- \* 2015 Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings
- \* 2015 Minnesota Energy Code with ANSI/IES Standard 90.1-2010
- \* 2015 Minnesota Accessibility Code
- \* ACI 318-2011 Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete
- \* ACI 530.1-2011 Building Requirements for Masonry Structures
- \* ACI 530.1 – 2011 Specifications for Masonry Structures
- \* ANSI/ASHRAE 62.1 – 2010 Appendix A
- \* ANSI/ASHRAE 15 – 2010 Safety standard for Refrigeration Systems
- \* ANSI/ASHRAE 34 – 2010 Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants
- \* SMACNA/ANSI – 2005 HVAC Duct Construction Standards – Metal and Flexible
- \* SMACNA – 2003 Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards
- \* NFPA 45 – 2011 Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals
- \* NFPA 96 – 2014 Ventilation & Fire Protection for Commercial Cooking Hoods
- \* NFPA 58 – 2011 Liquefied Petroleum Gases
- \* NFPA 13 – 2010 Installation of Fire Sprinklers
- \* NFPA 13R – 2010 Installation of Fire Sprinklers for Multifamily
- \* NFPA 13D – 2010 Installation of Fire Sprinklers for Dwellings
- \* NFPA 72 – 2010 Installation of Fire Alarm Systems
- \* NDS – 2012 National Design Specification for Wood Construction
- \* ICC 300 – 2012 ICC Standard on bleachers, folding & telescoping seating and grandstands.

# MN State Building Code: Building Inspection Departments

## ▶ 1300.0040 SCOPE

### **Subpart 1. Applicability.**

The code applies to the design, construction, addition, alteration, moving, replacement, demolition, repair, equipment, installation, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, and inspection of any building, structure, or building service equipment in a municipality, except work located primarily in a public way, public utility towers and poles, mechanical equipment not specifically regulated in the code, and hydraulic flood control structures.

## ▶ 1300.0090 DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY

### **Subpart 1. Creation of enforcement agency.**

There is hereby established in the municipality a code enforcement agency and the official in charge is the designated building official. The agency is referred to in the code as the "Department of Building Safety."

### **Subp. 2. Appointment.**

The building official shall be designated by the municipality according to Minnesota Statutes, Section 326B.133

## ▶ 1300.0110 DUTIES AND POWERS OF BUILDING OFFICIAL

### **Subpart 1. General.**

The building official is authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this code. The building official has the authority to render interpretations of the code and adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of the provisions. The interpretations, policies, and procedures shall comply with the intent and purpose of the code. The policies and procedures shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in the code.

### **Subp. 2. Deputies.**

According to the prescribed procedures of the municipality and with the concurrence of the appointing authority, the building official may designate a deputy building official and related technical officers, inspectors, plan examiners, and other employees. The employees have the powers delegated by the building official.

# MN State Building Code: Permits

## ▶ 1300.0120 PERMITS

### Subpart 1. Required.

An owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any gas, mechanical, electrical, plumbing system, or other equipment, the installation of which is regulated by the code; or cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit.

- ▶ Subp. 4. Work exempt from permit. Exemptions from permit requirements of the code do not authorize work to be done in any manner in violation of the code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction. Permits shall not be required for the following:

#### A. Building:

(1) One-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet (60 960 mm<sup>2</sup>);

(2) Fences not over seven feet (2134 mm) high;

etc.

# MN State Building Code: Permits

- ▶ **Subp. 8. Action on application.**  
The building official shall examine or cause to be examined applications for permits and amendments within a reasonable time after filing. If the application or the construction documents do not conform to the requirements of pertinent laws, the building official shall reject the application and notify the applicant of the reasons.
- ▶ **Subp. 10. Validity of permit.**  
The issuance or granting of a permit or approval of plans, specifications, and computations, shall not be construed to be a permit for any violation of the code or of any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. Permits presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of the code or other ordinances of the jurisdiction are not valid.
- ▶ **Subp. 14. Responsibility.**  
Every person who performs work for the installation or repair of building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing systems, for which the code is applicable, shall comply with the code. The person, firm, or organization securing the permit is responsible for code compliance for the work being performed.

# MN State Building Code: Construction Documents

## ▶ 1300.0130 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

### **Subpart 1. Submittal documents.**

Construction documents, special inspection and structural observation programs, and other data shall be submitted in one or more sets with each application for a permit.

**Exception:** The building official may waive the submission of construction documents and other data if the nature of the work applied for is such that reviewing of construction documents is not necessary to obtain compliance with the code.

The building official may require plans or other data be prepared according to the rules of the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design, Chapter 1800, and Minnesota Statutes, Sections 326.02 to 326.15, and other state laws relating to plan and specification preparation by occupational licenses. If special conditions exist, the building official may require additional construction documents to be prepared by a licensed design professional.

▶ **Subp. 2. Information on construction documents.** Construction documents shall be dimensioned and drawn upon suitable material. Electronic media documents are permitted to be submitted when approved by the building official. Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature, and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that it will conform to the code and relevant laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations, as determined by the building official.

▶ **Subp. 5. Examination of documents.** The building official shall examine or cause to be examined the accompanying construction documents to ascertain whether the construction indicated and described complies with the requirements of the code and other pertinent laws and ordinances.

# MN State Building Code: Residential Construction

## Required Document Submittals:

The following is a partial summary of plan review for a single-family dwelling and should include but not be limited to the following items:

1. Provide a survey/site plan showing lot size, building size, setbacks from property lines, other buildings, sewer/ water, septic systems, wells, and any other items required by code or ordinance.
2. Two sets of complete plans and specifications to be reviewed and approved. One for the building department and one to be on site.
3. Energy code compliance certificate.
4. Minimum ventilation requirements Minnesota Energy Code 1322 Chapter 4.
5. Residential combustion air calculations IFGC 304.1 I.F.G.C. Appendix E, worksheet E-1
6. Residential makeup air calculations. I.M.C 501.4. 1 I.M.C. Chapter 5 Table 501.4.1
7. Provide floor plans for all levels. Include room size, room use, kitchen and bathroom layout, dimensions of stairway and location, window and door location with sizes, and decks and porches.
8. Provide all exterior elevations showing top of foundation in relation to final grade, grading and drainage, windows, doors, siding type, roof pitch, roof covering, decks and miscellaneous.
9. Provide a typical wall section or section through the building. The following items should include but not limited to:
  - Footing size and reinforcing if required
  - Foundation size, type, height, and reinforcing
  - Foundation anchor size, type, and spacing
  - Foundation drainage (drain tile)
  - Foundation waterproofing (membrane)
  - Foundation insulation type, R value, and vapor retarder
  - Rim joist insulation type, location and sealing
  - Floor joist type, size, and spacing
  - Subfloor type, size, and thickness
  - Stud, size, and spacing
  - Wall sheathing type and size
  - Water-Resistive Barrier (Building paper/house wrap)

Exterior wall finish type and application  
Insulation type and R value  
Vapor retarder type  
Interior wall finish  
Roof rafter or trusses, size, and spacing  
Subfascia/fascia type and size  
Soffit system type and size  
Eave Baffle (wind wash barrier)  
Soffit ventilation  
Roof pitch indicator  
Roof underlayment and eave protection  
Roof covering  
Roof/attic ventilation  
Roof Sheathing

## Structural:

Provide all header, beams, post size, location of braced wall lines, braced wall panel design, all structural elements should be specified.  
Certified roof truss drawings floor truss drawings and all engineered drawings shall be required.  
Truss drawings and all engineered drawings are required on site at the framing inspection.

## Non-structural:

Show location and specification of smoke detectors  
Show location and specification of handrails, guardrails, and rise and run of stairways  
Verify location and requirements for egress windows and/or doors  
Verify requirements for safety glazing and location  
Verify bathrooms for minimum space requirements  
Verify ventilation requirements for bathroom  
Verify fire protection as required for common wall between house and garage and floor system.

# MN State Building Code: Inspections

## ▶ 1300.0210 INSPECTIONS

### **Subpart 1. General.**

Construction or work for which a permit is required is subject to inspection by the building official and the construction or work shall remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes until approved.

Approval as a result of an inspection is not approval of a violation of the code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction.

Inspections presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of the code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction are not valid. It shall be the duty of the permit applicant to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes. Neither the building official nor the jurisdiction is liable for expense entailed in the removal or replacement of any material required to allow inspection.

### ▶ **Subp. 4. Inspection requests.**

The building official shall provide the applicant with policies, procedures, and a timeline for requesting inspections. The person doing the work authorized by a permit shall notify the building official that the work is ready for inspection. The person requesting an inspection required by the code shall provide access to and means for inspection of the work.

### **Subp. 5. Approval required.**

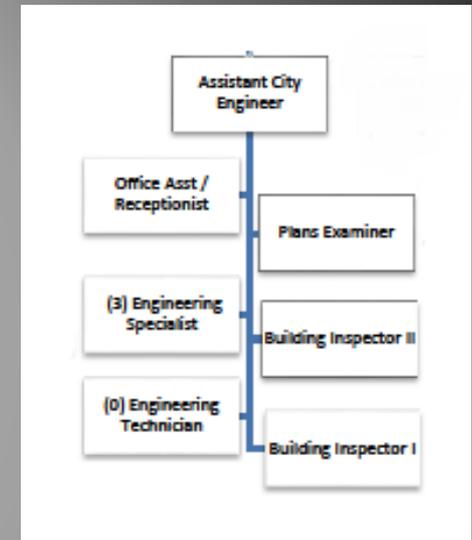
Work shall not be done beyond the point indicated in each successive inspection without first obtaining the approval of the building official. The building official, upon notification, shall make the requested inspections and shall either indicate the portion of the construction that is satisfactory as completed or notify the permit holder or an agent of the permit holder of any failures to comply with the code. Any portion that does not comply shall be corrected and the portion shall not be covered or concealed until authorized by the building official.

# Recent Code Developments

- ▶ 2015 – New Residential Building Code adopted based on 2012 IRC w/ amendments
  - a. Smoke and CO detectors are mandatory with each building permit
  - b. Braced wall information required from contractors
  - c. Sprinkler requirements were adopted and later deleted for single family houses and duplexes but are left in for townhouses
  - d. Additional Energy Code requirements
- ▶ 2016 – New Commercial Building Code adopted based on 2012 IBC w/ amendments
  - a. Sprinklers are required in all apartment buildings including tri-plexes and four-plexes.
  - b. Stricter Energy Code requirements

# Marshall Building Department

- ▶ Ilya Gutman, Plans Examiner  
(Designated Building Official)
  - ▶ Ray Henriksen, Building Inspector II
  - ▶ Craig Skorczewski, Building Inspector I
  - ▶ Chris DeVos, Office Assistant/Receptionist (Building Permit Technician)
- 
- ▶ In addition to enforcing the State Building Code, this Department is also enforcing the City Zoning Ordinance and the City Housing Code

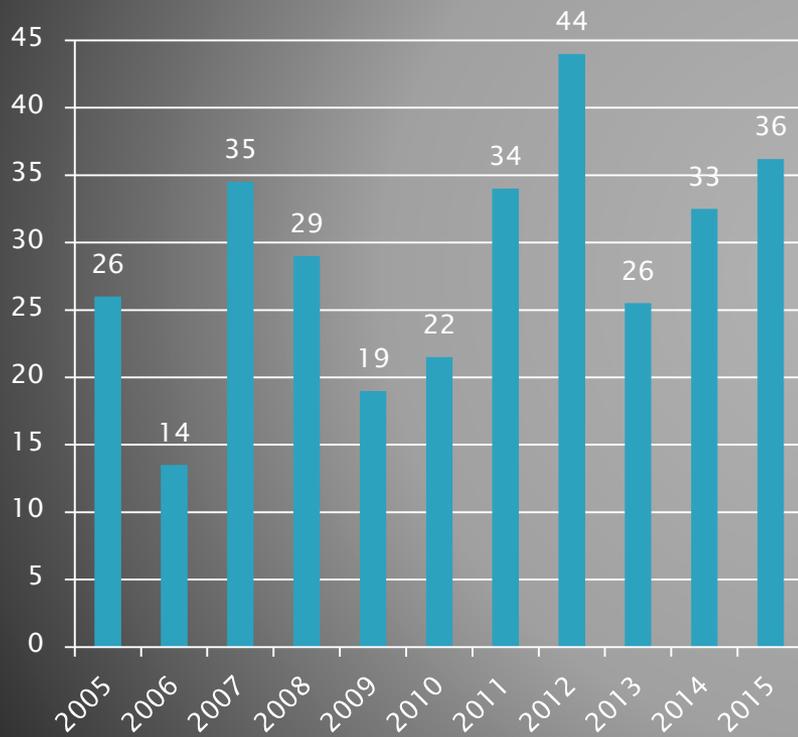


# Marshall Building Department Timeline

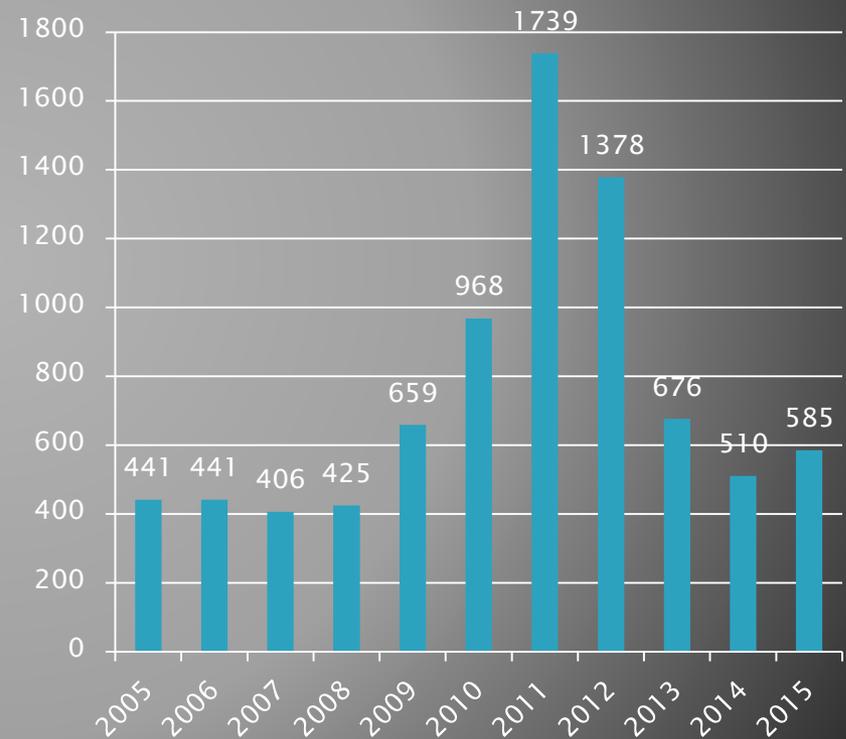
- ▶ 1976 – First City Ordinance is enacted that included adoption of the State Building Code
- ▶ 1979 – Dale Howe becomes Building Official
- ▶ 1992 – Ray Henriksen joins Inspection Department as a building inspector
- ▶ 2003 – First IBC family building code is adopted
- ▶ 2006 – Brian Schweer joins the Department as a building inspector
- ▶ 2008 – Chris DeVos joins the Department
- ▶ 2009 – Residential Energy Code is adopted
- ▶ 2010 – Dale Howe retires and Ilya Gutman becomes Building Official
- ▶ 2010 – With departure of Brian Schweer, department is left with only one building inspector
- ▶ 2011 – A July hail storm damages almost all roofs in town
- ▶ 2011 – Annual letter to contractors are sent every January
- ▶ 2011 – Code fliers are available at front window
- ▶ 2012 – Pink window permit copy and Blue Inspection Card are introduced and sent out with each permit
- ▶ 2013 – New permitting software is implemented but struggle with computer software continues
- ▶ 2014 – Permit application are available on City website; information area on website is initiated
- ▶ 2015 – New Minnesota State Building Code adopted by State
- ▶ 2015 – Department study results are released
- ▶ 2015 – Craig Skorczewski is hired as a building inspector I, a third in four years
- ▶ 2015 – Improved website provides all necessary information about building permit process and major Code issues; more information will be added as it becomes ready

# Statistics: Building Permits

## Valuation in Millions

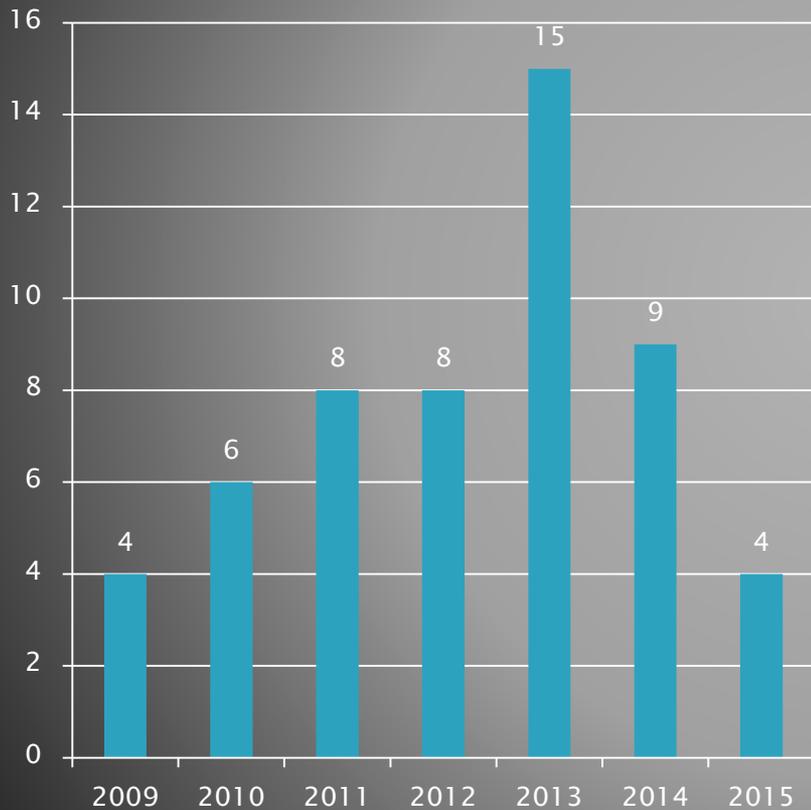


## Number of Permits

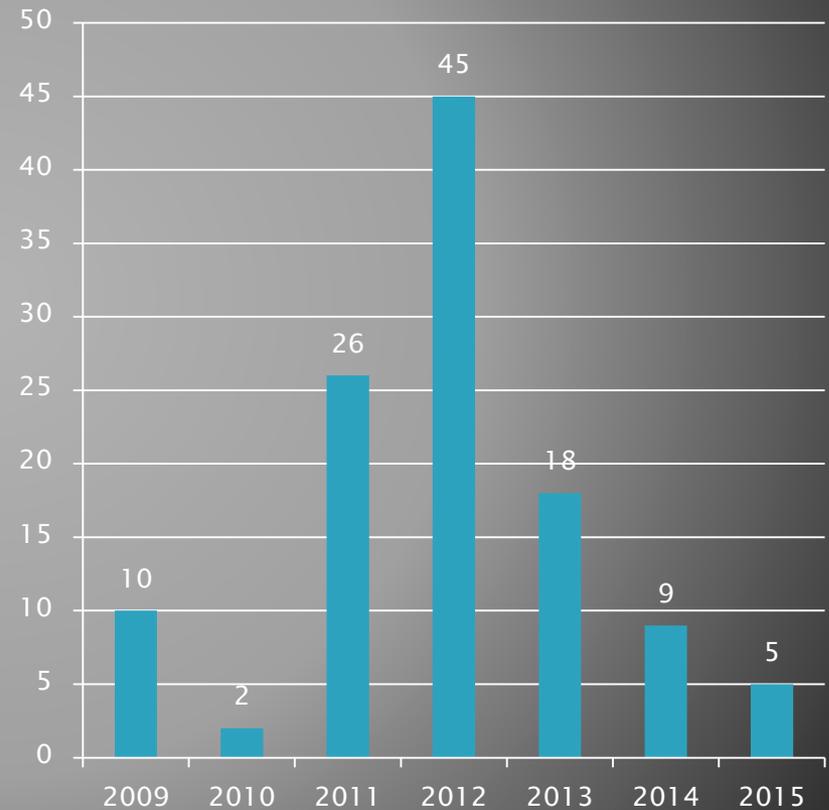


# Statistics: Residential Building Permits

## Single Family

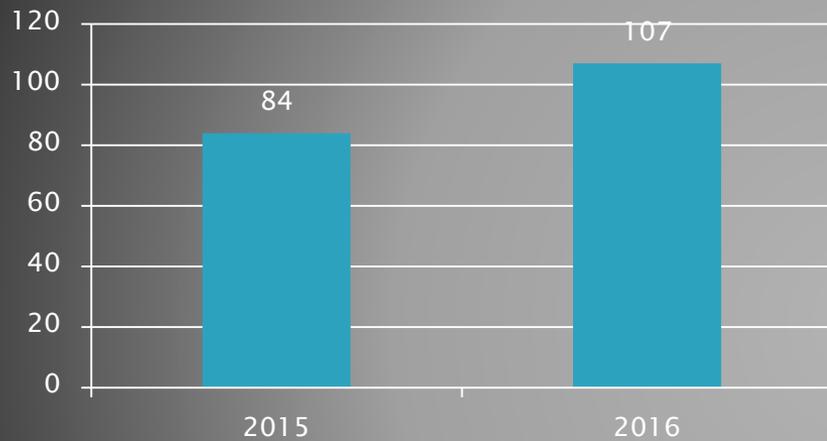


## Multi-Family Living Units

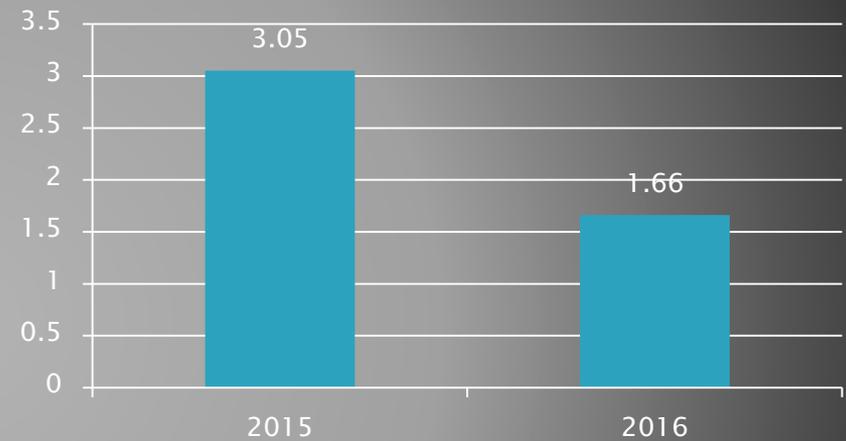


# Statistics: 2016 First Quarter

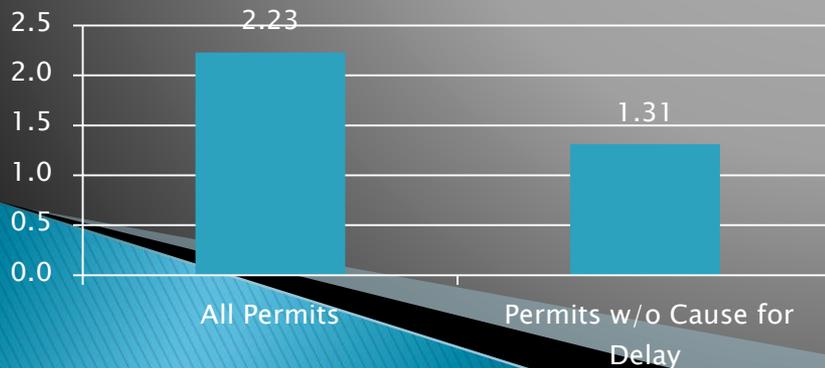
## Number of Permits



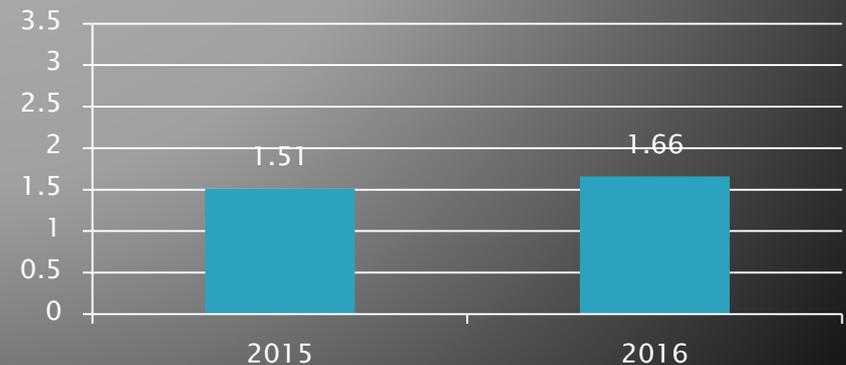
## Valuation in Millions



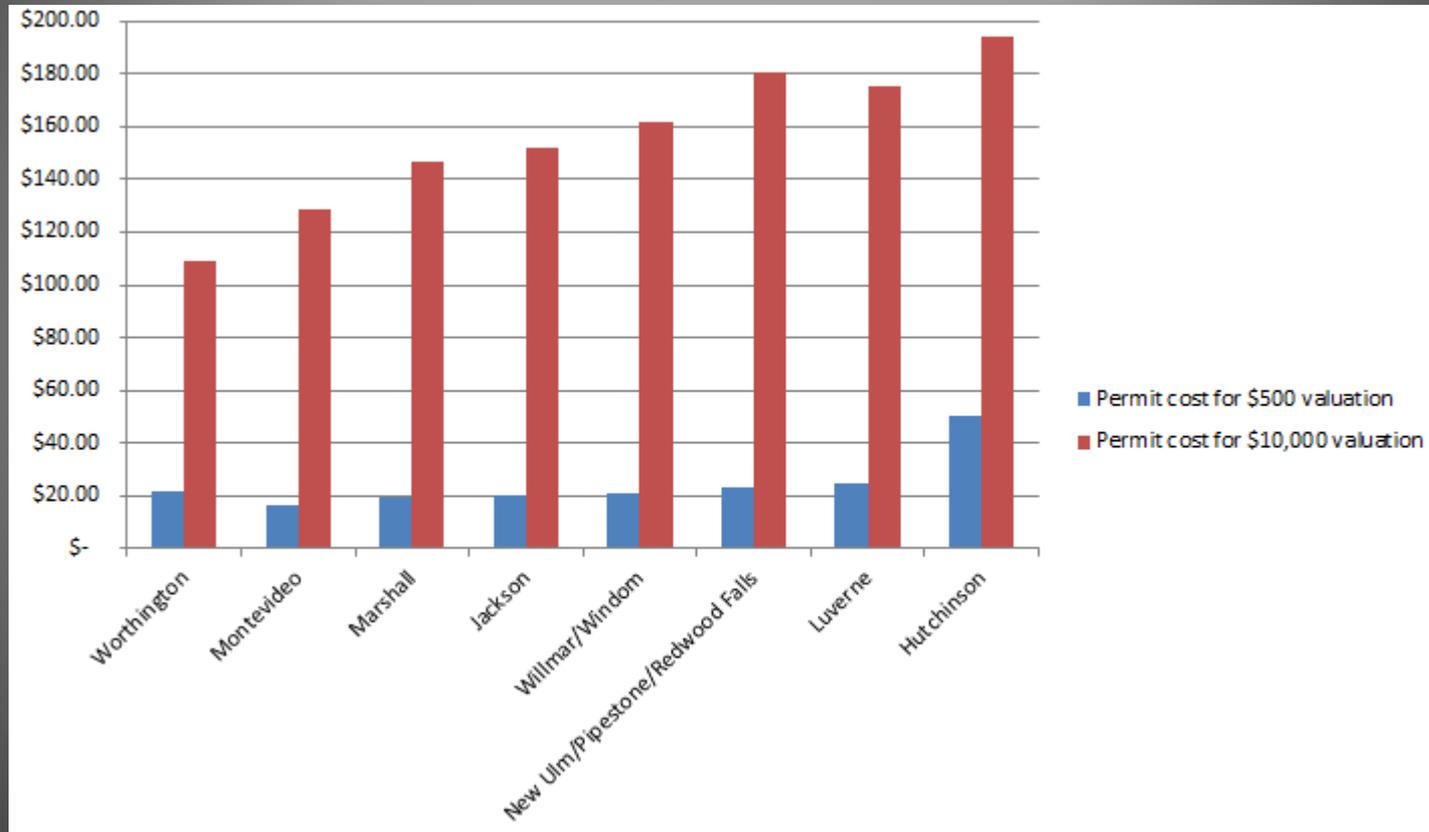
## Number of Days for Permit Approval



## Valuation in Millions w/o MERIT



# Statistics: Building Permit Fees



# Building Permit Application Process

- ▶ An applicant fills out a building permit application either in person or on-line
- ▶ A building permit fee is collected in a form of a check, cash, or credit card payment including over the phone
- ▶ Pre-inspection is conducted if justified; in many cases just a phone call provides all required information
- ▶ All required construction documents are reviewed and additional documents are requested if necessary
- ▶ For commercial projects when drawings are prepared by an architect, a letter of review is mailed; for other projects, all comments are noted on the drawings and listed on a permit
- ▶ When all issues are resolved and all required documentation is submitted, a permit is signed and mailed along with a pink window copy for window display and a blue inspection card listing all inspections applicable to the project; a stamped set of drawings is also sent out to remain on site
- ▶ Minor variations from the above process are possible depending on specific circumstance

# Department Challenges

- ▶ Code is the law and as in any law, flexibility is limited; complicated commercial projects may not fit into Code language and require interpretations, but residential construction is pretty well set in the Code.
- ▶ Project review prior to construction is a service to permit applicants and some documentation is explicitly required by the Code; in fact, thorough review of the plans prior to construction will prevent problems during construction because it is easier to change things on paper than in the field. Unfortunately, construction documentation is viewed as an unnecessary burden with no benefits.
- ▶ Inspections are required by the Code and the applicant is responsible for calling for inspections. All required inspections are listed on the blue inspection card that every permit applicant receives. We receive few calls for inspections.
- ▶ Smoke and fire alarms requirements are very strict in the new 2015 Code and cause tension with homeowners and contractors.
- ▶ Conveying Code requirements to people is difficult because our methods are limited. Contractors may read the Code and come to the seminars, but homeowners cannot do it. Our new website provides a lot of helpful information but people have to go there to find it.
- ▶ Even though the State Building Code is applicable statewide, it is not enforced in our area outside of Marshall city limits, making it difficult to explain to people and contractors why they have to do certain things in Marshall but not in other communities. The Code is applicable everywhere, but only enforced in larger communities.
- ▶ Permitworks, our permit processing software, has not lived up to our expectations or to vendor promises. We will be exploring alternative options.

# Department Response: Customer Service

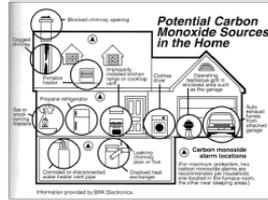
- ▶ Proactive approach: we initiate a contact with an applicant if we need something; unless requested otherwise, we communicate directly with contractors, architects, and engineers to speed up the process.
- ▶ Flexibility: we meet with applicants, contractors, and architects whenever (including after hours) and wherever it is convenient for them whether a permit is open or just as a consultation prior to application.
- ▶ Collaboration: we work with all owners and owners' representatives to find a code compliant solution to design and construction problems.
- ▶ Communication: we may discuss things in person, over the phone, through the e-mail, or in letters.
- ▶ Openness: we always explain the Code requirement and show the Code language when requested.
- ▶ Education: we conduct annual meeting with contractors (the last one in December 2015) and invited a guest speaker to talk about new 2015 Building Code in March of 2015. We are frequently updating our website to provide up-to-date Code-related information.
- ▶ Team approach: we all work together within department and always discuss problems amongst ourselves including our weekly staff meetings.
- ▶ We are always striving to provide excellent customer service to those whom we serve. It is important for us to remember that our customers are not just contractors, but all of the citizens of the community that utilize the facilities that we inspect.

# Department Response: Education

## CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



**BUILDING  
INSPECTIONS  
DEPARTMENT**  
507-537-6773  
www.ci.marshall.mn.us



This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the 2015 Minnesota Residential Code, Marshall City ordinances, and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact your local Building Department.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a toxic, colorless, odorless gas that is formed as a product of incomplete combustion of natural gas, diesel, oil, kerosene, propane, or any other carbon compound. CO is found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, natural gas heaters, furnaces or any other fuel burning appliance. CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. CO symptoms are often described as "flu-like." If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you. People who are sleeping or drunk can die from CO poisoning before they have symptoms. Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Infants, the elderly, people with chronic heart disease, anemia, or breathing problems are more likely to get sick from CO. Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning not linked to fires, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 are hospitalized. The best way to protect yourself is to install CO detectors in your home as required by the Code.

Carbon monoxide alarms are required by the Minnesota Building Code in new construction and **whenever there is a permit issued for any type of work in an existing dwelling unit or townhouse that contains a fuel-fuel fired appliance or an attached garage.**

Carbon monoxide alarms must be installed on each floor containing sleeping rooms within ten feet of each bedroom. One CO alarm may serve more than one bedroom if installed within required distance. The Minnesota Building Code permits either single station alarms or approved systems.

In existing dwellings, any time a permit is issued for any work (building, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, electrical, swimming pools, or retaining walls), carbon monoxide alarms must be installed. Even if the work is exterior, CO alarms are required if any fuel burning appliances exist or if you have an attached garage. The responsibility for installing the alarm falls on the permit applicant.

The text from the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code follows:

## SMOKE ALARMS



**BUILDING  
INSPECTIONS  
DEPARTMENT**  
507-537-6773  
www.ci.marshall.mn.us



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Fire deaths occur in residential buildings more than in any other building type. More than half of all fire deaths in residential buildings occur while the occupants are asleep and are unaware. Death usually results from asphyxiation, long before the fire reaches the occupants. Smoke alarms installed in a home give early warnings of smoke and allow the occupants the critical few moments needed to escape.

The State Building Code requires that smoke alarms be installed in dwellings whenever additions, interior alterations, or interior repairs requiring a building permit occur or when one or more bedrooms are added. Work on the exterior of the dwelling is exempt from this provision; examples of this work would include roofing, siding, decks and porches.

*Before calling for a final inspection*, it is your responsibility to insure that all detectors are properly placed, as they will be checked as a part of that inspection. Permit applicants are responsible for compliance.

Smoke alarms must be installed in each sleeping room, outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, and on each story of the dwelling including basements. When framing is exposed, smoke alarms must be hard wired and have a battery backup. Smoke alarms must be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the dwelling unit. Circuits containing smoke alarms are not permitted to have a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection. In areas where framing is not exposed, alarms may be solely battery operated.

The text from the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code follows:

# Summary

- ▶ Marshall Building Department staff is obligated to enforce the Minnesota State Building Code
- ▶ Building Department staff is making all possible efforts to facilitate communication and to convey Code requirements to contractors and homeowners
- ▶ Currently, there are 234 open permits
  - ▶ 72 are commercial
  - ▶ Oldest permit open since October 2013
  - ▶ 22 current unapproved applications
- ▶ Large projects currently open
  - ▶ Red Baron Amateur Sports Center
  - ▶ MERIT Center
  - ▶ Tallgrass Liquor
  - ▶ Children's Library Addition
  - ▶ Casey's General Store
  - ▶ Caribou Coffee
  - ▶ DaVita Dialysis Center
  - ▶ Evangelical Free Church

Questions?