



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

DATE: October 23, 2007

TO: All Architects, Builders, Developers, Engineers, Contractors and Surveyors Practicing in Fairfax County

SUBJECT: Changes to the *Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia* (Fairfax County Code) Related to building permits – New Fire Suppression Permits

TITLE: **07-20 Fire Suppression Building Provision Changes**

Effective July 9, 2007, revisions to Chapter 61 (Building Provisions) of the Fairfax County Code were adopted that authorize separate permits for fire alarm systems, fire suppression systems, and fire lanes.

Background: On July 9, 2007, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved revisions to Chapter 61 (Building Provisions) of the Fairfax County Code related to fire alarm, fire suppression, and fire lane permits. The changes impact the construction or renovation of all commercial and multi-family projects. The revisions were necessary to align the business processes and fees with the implementation of the Fairfax Inspections Database Online (FIDO).

Requirements: The major change effected by Chapter 61 (Building Provisions) is the establishment of distinct permits for fire alarm systems and fire suppression systems and a distinct permit for fire lanes. The new permits include: Fire Alarm Permit, Fire Suppression Commercial Permit, Fire Underground Permit, Fire Suppression Residential Permit, Fire Suppression Limited Area Permit, and Fire Lane Permit. The base fee of \$65 will apply to each permit type. The Fire Suppression Permits also include range hoods and special projects. These permits are in addition to the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical trade permits issued by the Permits Branch, Land Development Services, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

Business process changes: Effective October 29, 2007, fire alarm, fire suppression, and fire lane permits will be issued at the Fire Prevention Division of the Fire and Rescue Department, 10700 Page Avenue, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. To expedite the process, application and payment for the accompanying trade permit may be made at the same time; i.e., plumbing, electrical, or mechanical trade permit.

It is important that the application form for each electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permit and the application form for each fire alarm, fire suppression type, fire underground, and fire



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lane permit be completely and accurately filled out prior to making application. An incomplete application will delay the process and could impact the ability to enter the information into the FIDO system. The applications for the trade permits are available on the County's web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/forms/>. The application for the fire alarm, fire suppression, fire underground, and fire lane permits is available on the County's web site at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention/fpd_permit_appl.pdf. If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Division at **703-246-4800, TTY 711**.

Sincerely,

Deputy Chief Dereck A. Baker
Fire Prevention Division

cc: James W. Patteson, Director, Land Development Services, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

