



FIRE CODE NEWSLETTER

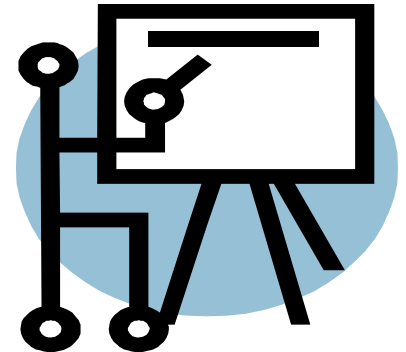
VOLUME 3
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Office of the Fire Code Official, Collier County, Florida

Special Points of Interest:

- *Underground Utilities & Backflow Prevention*
- *Barbeque Grill Safety*
- *Upcoming Events*

Underground Utilities and Backflow Prevention



Big changes have happened in Collier County over the past several months that have required significant changes to underground permit criteria. At the Fire Code Official's Office, efforts are being made to assist contractors with understanding these requirements.

There is a new list of approved backflow preventers that are permitted for use in Collier County. This list affects any backflow that is directly attached to the County water supply. Additionally, all fire connections must be metered using a line size meter. The list of the County approved backflow devices and meters has already been sent by the Fire Code Official's Office to all underground and fire sprinkler contractors known to be working in the area and is available either from the Fire Code Office or the Utilities Department.

Basically, the County now requires all backflow devices directly attached to their water supply to be a Reduced Pressure Backflow with ammonia and chlorine resistant seats and silicone rubber seals.

If a development has a master meter and the fire line connection is inside this development, more than likely, any backflow listed for fire service use, including double detector check valves, can be used since the County water supply would not be affected.

If there are Reduced Pressure Backflow devices that you prefer to use that are not on the approved list, you need to contact the Utilities Department for acceptance.

Point of Service

Another development recently is that all dedicated fire lines are required to be installed by a Sprinkler or Type V underground contractor. These lines can no longer be installed by a contractor who is only licensed for utility work and must follow the requirements of NFPA 24. The change actually went into effect a while back, but was recently brought to the attention of fire officials in a class provided by Peter Schwab with Wayne Automatic Sprinklers. The change is related to the term in Florida Statute 633.021 for "Point of Service" which now includes "underground fire mains, fire hydrants and hydrant mains".

This information will require changes in the way that Site Development infrastructures are handled. No longer will dedicated fire lines be permitted through the Site Development approval. They will require separate permits through the County with reviews by the Fire Code Office and inspections by fire department personnel. More details will be made available shortly as the procedural changes are still being worked out. Any previously approved Site Development Plans (SDP's) will be handled as they were before these changes went into effect.

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Backflow Changeouts

Along these same lines is another change being made by County fire officials. Florida Statute 633.539 (4) prohibits utility contractors and Type V Underground contractors from retrofitting backflow devices on an existing fire protection system line. Only Contractors I and II are permitted to perform this work and must recalculate the fire system to insure proper operation of the system. Therefore, change-outs of backflow devices will require a permit so the changes can be reviewed and inspected for compliance.

So in a nutshell:

1. Use only the approved Reduced Pressure Backflow devices if connections are to the County water supply. Alternatively you may request approval of other devices by checking with the utilities department.
2. County approved line-sized meters are required on all fire lines.
3. From the "Point of Service" on, which includes underground fire mains, fire hydrants and fire mains must be done by a Sprinkler contractor or a Type V underground contractor.
4. Replacing backflow devices which affect fire sprinkler systems must be done by a Contractor I or II and will require a permit. The permit application will require calculations and all associated paperwork to properly check the calculations.

*Submitted by Jackie de la Osa
Deputy Fire Code Official
Office of the Fire Code Official*

The Fire Code Office is pleased to announce the newest member of our team, Sarah Pike. Sarah will work as an administrative assistant, handling the front office, visitors, answering phone calls, and generally make life more pleasant for us. Sarah can be reached at 239-252-FIRE (3473) or on the web at sarahpike@colliergov.net



THOUGHTS TO PONDER...

ONLY IN AMERICA DO DRUGSTORES MAKE THE SICK WALK ALL THE WAY TO THE BACK OF THE STORE TO GET THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS WHILE HEALTHY PEOPLE CAN BUY CIGARETTES AT THE FRONT COUNTER



BARBEQUE GRILL SAFETY

One of the benefits of living in Southwest Florida is that we can enjoy outdoor activities year round. A favorite pastime that is enjoyed by many is cooking outside on the barbeque grill. Unfortunately, each year, the fire service responds to an estimated 6,500 grill fires nationwide. These fires account for an average of 150 injuries, 5 deaths, and 28 million dollars in property loss. Don't throw away your barbeque grill just yet. Despite these alarming statistics, there are a few precautions and preparations that you can take so that you can both enjoy yourself and stay safe.

BEFORE YOU START COOKING:

- Check your hoses and connections for leaks, cracking, or brittleness before each use. Make sure the tubes leading to the burners are clean and unobstructed.
- Do not use your grill within 10 feet of your house, garage or trees.
- Store your grill on a large, flat, non-combustible surface.
- Never use your grill indoors or in an enclosed area.
- Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct children to remain outside of that zone.
- Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher, and have it in an area where you will be cooking.

WHILE YOU ARE COOKING:

- Do not wear loose clothing that might catch fire.
- Use long handled barbeque tools and cooking mitts.
- Never use a flammable liquid other than barbeque starter fluid.
- Be careful with alcoholic beverages around the grill.
- Never leave the grill unattended.

AFTER BARBEQUING:

- Always follow the manufactures cleaning and storing instructions.
- Keep your grill clean and free of grease buildup that may lead to a fire.
- Never store propane inside your home, or near a possible flame source.

IN CASE OF A BARBEQUE FIRE

- Turn off the burners.
- Close the lid.
- Shut off the tank valve if you can reach it safely.
- Call 911.
- Extinguish the fire with a fire extinguisher if it is safe to do so.
- If the fire involves the tank, leave it alone. Evacuate to a safe area and call 911.

BARBEQUE GRILL REGULATIONS

For other than one and two family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill or other similar devices used for cooking, heating or any other purpose shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 10 feet of any structure. Listed electric ranges, grills or similar electrical apparatus shall be permitted.

Submitted by Dave Raub
Fire Marshal, North Naples Fire District

VOLUME 3



OFFICE OF THE FIRE CODE OFFICIAL,
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

2800 North Horseshoe Dr.
Naples, FL 34104

Phone: 239-252-FIRE (3473)
Fax: 239-403-2393

**We're on the Web:
Colliercountyfiremarshals.com**

Your Comments or Suggestions are Welcome

Please email to

Firecode@colliergov.net

MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of the Fire Code Official of Collier County, Florida is dedicated to the protection of life and property within the Fire Control and Rescue Districts of Collier County through preemptive and proactive prevention services including the following:

Countywide Uniform Interpretation and Application of Fire and Life Safety Codes, Standards and Ordinances

Maintenance of Contemporary Fire and Life Safety Codes, Standards and Ordinances

Liaison between County Government and Fire Districts

Fire and Life Safety Information, Education and Consultation

Project Plan Review and Permitting for New Construction

Databasing, Recordkeeping and Fee Accounting

Field visits for Project Troubleshooting

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Collier County
Fire Marshals Association
2009 Meeting Schedule**

JANUARY 29

MARCH 19

MAY 21

JULY 23

SEPTEMBER 17

NOVEMBER 12

**Collier County Fire Marshals
Association Meeting**

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2009

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Yet to be determined
Naples, FL

For more information contact

Linda at 239-252-3473

