Building Department Newsletter

MAY 2020

BUILDING

Update on Code Books

Last year, the Nebraska Legislature passed the 2018 ICC Code series, which included the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (2018 IECC). The state is currently on the 2009 IECC and has been for some time. The State of Nebraska was to implement the 2018 ICC code series cycle in July of 2020. There was supposed to be training in March of this year with the Nebraska energy code. The Nebraska code officials were going to follow up with significant changes to the 2018 International Residential Code (2018 IRC) and 2018 International Building Code (2018 IBC). The 2020 National Electric Code (2020 NEC) was also going to be adopted in July 2020. This has all been put on hold due to the social distancing requirements. There are also significant amendments being suggested by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) towards the 2020 NEC. We are starting some webinars with the Nebraska Energy office and we will keep you informed as we receive more information.

Fees for Utilities on New Residential Construction

On February 11th, 2020, the master fee schedule was updated with Resolution 2020-034 that was passed by the Fremont City Council. The master fee schedule included a $250 fee for New Residential Gas Service Connection. The City Council meeting on April 14th, 2020 included a wording change to the $250 fee for New Residential Underground Electric Service Connection. Starting May 1st, the Building Department will collect these fees when an applicant applies for a new residential construction permit. Those fees will go to the Department of Utilities for their work on the electric and gas connections.

*****DO NOT FORGET TO CALL FOR FINAL INSPECTIONS.*****

400 E Military, Fremont, NE 68025 Ph: 402-727-2638 Fax: 402-727-2659 building@fremontne.gov

PLUMBING

Correction: Please note a correction from last month's newsletter regarding the new sizing for water heaters. The Tentative Interim Amendment requested revisions to Table 501.1(1) as follows and will now be used:

TABLE 501.1(1) FIRST HOUR RATING[1]

Number of Bathrooms	1 to 1.5			2 to 2.5				3 to 3.5			
Number of Bedrooms	1	2	3	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6
First Hour Rating,[2] Gallons	~~42~~ 38	~~54~~ 49	~~54~~ 49	~~54~~ 49	~~67~~ 62	~~67~~ 62	~~80~~ 74	~~67~~ 62	~~80~~ 74	~~80~~ 74	~~80~~ 74

For SI units: 1 gallon = 3.785 L

Notes:

1 The first hour rating is found on the "Energy Guide" label.

2 Solar water heaters shall be sized to meet the appropriate first hour rating as shown in the table.

Section 510.1.8 Vertical Vent Upsizing Using 7 x Rule

We have talked about this section of the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code in the March 2020 newsletter and below is some clarification:

Where the vertical vent has a larger diameter than the vent connector, the vertical vent diameter shall be used to determine the minimum vent capacity and the connector diameter shall be used to determine the maximum vent capacity. The flow area of the vertical vent shall NOT exceed seven times the flow area of the listed appliance categorized vent area, flue collar area, or the draft hood outlet area unless designed in accordance with approved engineering methods. [NFPA 54:13.1.9]

In short, a vent system with a larger vent than the vent connector, the draft is limited by the small diameter of the connector. Condensation will begin in the larger diameter. The maximum and minimum capacities must be determined accordingly. Practical limits exist as to how large the vertical vent may be relative to its source of vent gas flow; then the flow area of the vent shall not be more than seven times the flow area of the outlet of the appliance or draft hood. A sudden large expansion of the vent system diameter at the vertical portion creates a pressure drop that could limit the draft and encourage condensation. That is the purpose of the limitations on vertical vent size versus vent connector size.

It is my, Steve Kunasek, sincere hope that this provides more clarification on this section of the plumbing code.

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