



City of Rancho Cucamonga

**Building and Safety Services Department**

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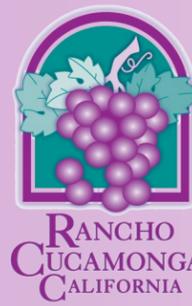
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<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION</b> .....	<b>(909) 477-2712</b>
<b>FIRE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES</b> .....	<b>(909) 477-2713</b>
<b>BUSINESS LICENSE DIVISION</b> .....	<b>(909) 477-2700</b>
<b>ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT</b> .....	<b>(909) 477-2740</b>
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<b>CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT</b> .....	<b>(909) 987-2591</b>
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# The Buzz in Building

*"Dedicated to public safety and the quality of life by fostering strong relationships with residents, construction industry and the business community"*

**SPRING EDITION  
2013**

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**CITY HOLIDAYS**

- Monday, May 27, 2013  
(Memorial Day)
- Thursday, July 4, 2013  
(Fourth of July)
- Monday, September 2, 2013  
(Labor Day)

**\*\*REMINDER\*\***

City Hall is closed every Friday

Code Enforcement services are available on Fridays and Saturday



**MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

**Trang Huynh, P.E., C.B.O.**

Building and Safety Services Director

**BUILDING & SAFETY SUPPORTS**

**NATIONAL BUILDING AND SAFETY MONTH**

The City of Rancho Cucamonga is celebrating Building and Safety Month and promoting the theme of "Code Officials Keep You Safe", by focusing on four (4) key areas of safety; *Fire Safety, Disaster Safety & Mitigation, Backyard & Pool Safety and Energy & Green building.*



In addition, the City of Rancho Cucamonga - Building and Safety continues to support and enforce critical regulations of fire, life safety, energy efficiency, and ensures safe construction of buildings by using the highest-quality and most widely adopted International Codes. These codes are widely adopted throughout the nation, and they help to protect our citizens within the communities where we live, learn, work, play and worship.

During the month of May, Building Safety staff will continue to take the appropriate steps for continued enforcement of safety codes when reviewing construction plans, issuing building permits, and inspecting buildings during and after construction.

The department will also continue to provide the superior service that added us in being ranked within the top ten percent in the nation by the Insurance Services Office for the department's effectiveness in the administration of permit and inspection processes.

Through our public relation efforts via newsletters, website and handouts, our goal is to raise the awareness of all citizens and stress the importance of building safe, green and resilient buildings, along with pool, spa and hot tub safety; backyard safety; and new technologies in the development industry.

On May 15, 2013, the City Council of Rancho Cucamonga issued a proclamation to recognize the month of May as the Building and Safety Month.



## MAY 6TH -12TH FIRE SAFETY

### IMPORTANT TIPS

To remember for **Fire Safety and Awareness**

-  Install smoke alarms in each room outside of sleeping areas and rooms and on each level of your home.
-  Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out then call for help.
-  When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable - they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
-  Test your smoke alarm each month and change the batteries at least once a year.
-  Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
-  Install noncombustible 1/4 inch or smaller mesh screening on attic/soffit vents and around elevated wood decks to keep out embers. Install approved or listed sparks arrestors on chimneys of solid fuel or liquid fuel burning appliances.
-  Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.
-  Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.

#### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARM SAFETY

In addition to the installation of smoke detectors in dwelling units, Building safety codes also require CO alarms in all dwellings that contain fuel fired fireplaces, and dwelling units that have an attached garages. This requirement is also applicable to apartment, condo units, and townhomes. CO alarms in existing dwelling units can be battery operated or they can be plugged in with a battery back-up.

For more information contact the Building and Safety Department at **(909) 477-2710**

 Maintain a “defensible” space around your home by clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 100 ft around all structures. Clear dead leaves and branches to leave widely spaced ornamental shrubbery and trees.

 Plant approved trees and shrubs away from your home and far enough apart so they won’t ignite one another.



## MAY 27TH - 31ST ENERGY & GREEN BUILDING

### IMPORTANT TIPS

To remember for **Green and Sustainable Building**

Building green means living better, smarter and healthier. Just by choosing energy-efficient building materials and supplies, homeowners can make positive changes to both inside and outside environments, creating homes that are better for you and our world.

Building green does not necessarily mean starting from scratch or spending more money. Instead there are many ways to improve the green factor in existing homes. Here are just a few ways to be “green” and save energy.

-  Close curtains and shades at night to keep warmth in and keep them open during the day.
-  Replace ordinary light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs.
-  Install a programmable thermostat to keep your home comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.
-  Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips, and turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use as TVs and DVDs in standby mode still consume several watts of power.
-  Buy Energy Star certified projects when you buy or replace household or workplace appliances or equipment.

For more energy saving tips, log onto [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)

#### FACT CHECK -

##### Photovoltaic Solar Systems

During the first 4 months of this year, Building and Safety issued 156 permits for solar related projects, and in 2012 the department issued 340 permits. The RC Building and Safety Department has a simplified permit process for residential photovoltaic solar systems under 10kw, and plan checks for these projects can usually be done over the counter.

##### Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

The City of Rancho Cucamonga continues to support and encourage the use of Electronic Vehicles. As of April 2013, the City will have ten (10) designated public charging stations located throughout the city. For a map of the charging stations locations, log onto our website at [www.CityofRC.us/building](http://www.CityofRC.us/building) or come to the Building and Safety counter in City Hall.



## MAY 20TH - 26TH BACKYARD & POOL SAFETY

### IMPORTANT TIPS

To remember for summer **Backyard** and **Pool Safety**

School is almost out and that means lots of children taking advantage of the hot summer months with pool parties and bar-b-que cookouts. So now is the time to make sure that you're providing a safe environment. No matter the age, these tips will ensure a safer summer.

#### POOL AND DECK SAFETY

- Pedestrian gates to the pool should be self-closing and self-latching. Padlock all other gates.
- Remove all potential climbing apparatuses to prevent children from accessing the pool area.
- Keep reaching and throwing aids like poles on both sides of the pools.
- All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007. Make sure that the covers are not broken or in disrepair.
- Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance to the pool area.
- Install an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub.
- Check for warning signs of an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.

#### GRILL SAFETY

- Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Also do NOT use grills in a garage, under a porch or an enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide.
- Make sure that you have a fire extinguisher, garden hose or four gallons of water close by in the event of a fire.
- Keep children away from fires and grills. Establish a safety zone and instruct children to remain outside of the zone.

For more information on backyard and pool safety log onto: [www.iccsafe.org/safety/Pages/Backyard.aspx](http://www.iccsafe.org/safety/Pages/Backyard.aspx) or [www.abcpoolsafety.org](http://www.abcpoolsafety.org)

NEWS FROM OUR:

## PLAN CHECK & PERMIT DIVISION



### LICENSED CONTRACTOR WHO CAN INSTALL SOLAR RELATED PROJECTS

Renewable energy sources and uses are becoming a California priority. Following is a list of all licensed classifications issued by the Contractors State License Board who can work on solar projects.

"A" - General Engineering contractors are authorized to perform active solar energy projects.

"B" - General Building contractors are authorized to perform active solar energy projects within the definition of B&P Code section 7057, since an active solar energy system constitutes the use of two unrelated building trades or crafts as required by section 7057.

#### SPECIALTY CLASSIFICATION

##### C-4: Boiler, Hot-Water Heating and Steam Fitting

**C-10: Electrical** contractors can perform any solar project which generates, transmits or utilizes electrical energy.

##### C-20: Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning

**C-36: Plumbing** contractors are authorized to use solar equipment to heat water or fluids suitable to temperature.

**C-46: Solar** contractors are authorized to install, modify, maintain, and repair active solar systems.

**C-53: Swimming Pool** contractors are authorized to include installation of solar heating in pool projects.

**C-61/D-35: Swimming Pool and Spa Maintenance** contractors are authorized to install, replace or repair existing pool solar heating. For more information on Solar Energy projects, view the "Fast Facts" on our website at [www.CityofRC.us/building](http://www.CityofRC.us/building)

### FROM OUR GRADING DIVISION:

## NEWS ABOUT NEW MODEL FOR WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The new Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) model is underway, and the County of San Bernardino (MS4 Permittee) has completed a draft that is currently under review. If approved, the new template will go into effect in July or August 2013 and any new project will be required to comply to the new requirements. The City will work with all applicants; who submitted their projects using the previous version, to get a final approval before the new template and regulations take effect.

For more information on Grading, please contact **Matthew Addington**, Associate Engineer, in the Building and Safety Services Department at (909) 477-2710 ext. 4202

A MESSAGE FROM:

## CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Every year the Code Enforcement division organizes a **FREE** neighborhood clean up to help assist residents within an identified neighborhood in Rancho Cucamonga, dispose of unwanted waste and e-waste. This year the clean-up has been scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th from 9:00am - 12noon** in the neighborhood around Hermosa and Lemon. The Code Enforcement Division has arranged for Burrtec Waste to provide dumpsters and our very own Public Works department who will provide us with the use of tractors for the bulky items. Something new to the clean-up, Code Enforcement will partner with volunteers from Mt. View Faith Church.

For more information about the clean up, contact the **Code Enforcement division at (909) 477-2712**.

### What projects are EXEMPT from a building permit?

In accordance with the 2010 California Building Code, Section 105.2 and RC Code amendments, the following projects do not require a building permit. However, applicants need to check with Planning Department for its use and set back distance requirements.

- One-story detached accessory structures used as tool & storage sheds, playhouses and similar; providing the floor area does not exceed 120sf. and the structure is not more than 8ft maximum in height.
- Wood fences no higher than 6ft and free standing block wall fence not higher than 3ft in height.
- Oil derricks
- Retaining walls not over 4ft; from the bottom of footing, unless supporting a surcharge.
- Water tanks supported directly on grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons
- Sidewalks and driveways not more than 30 inches above adjacent grade.
- Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.
- Temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets & scenery.
- Prefabricated swimming pools less than 24" deep.
- Shade cloth structures constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes.
- Swings and other playground equipment
- Window awnings
- Non-fixed and moveable fixtures, cases, racks, counters, and partitions not higher than 5'9".
- Flag pole not to exceed 20ft in height above ground in a residential lot.

If you have questions on whether your project needs a permit or not, contact **Sergio Azuela at (909) 477-2710 ext 4205**

## MAY 13TH -19TH DISASTER SAFETY & MITIGATION



### IMPORTANT TIPS

#### To remember for Disaster Safety and Mitigation

Make sure that you and your family are prepared for any natural disaster. Below are some steps to protect yourself, your family and your home. Your actions can help make sure that no matter what Mother Nature brings your way, your family will be safe.

-  Develop a family action plan and share with everyone in your family, so you will know where to go if an evacuation is called. Review at least two exit routes from your home or neighborhood to a designated meeting place for your family. Plan ahead for your pets as many shelters will accept them.
-  Create a disaster supply kit that will allow you to remain in your home after a disaster or for use after evacuating to a safer location. Be sure the necessities in your kit are fresh and restored every six months.
-  Stay tuned to radio, TV and NOAA Weather Radio for official updates and critical life saving weather information. Remember, reception is usually best if place near a window.
-  Flooded roads could have a significant damage hidden by floodwaters. Never drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off your feet and two feet of water to move an SUV-size vehicle.
-  If you live in a high wind or hurricane prone area and do not have tested and code approved shutters for protection from the windborne debris, temporarily protect your doors and windows by mounting exterior grade, 5/8" minimum thickness plywood and fastening it into place. Visit [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org) for detailed instructions on how to use plywood for emergency board up.
-  Secure lawn furniture and any other loose outdoor items that can become windborne and can cause injury or damage during storms with high winds. Don't forget *trash can, grills, toys and potted plants*.
-  Use Surge Protective Devices (SPD) in your home to protect electronic appliances from all but the most severe electrical surges or direct strikes. The devices should be installed to afford the highest level of protection.
-  In wildfire prone areas, remove dead & twigs, grass, leaves, and branches within 30 feet of a building to create survivable space in case of wildfire. Be sure to remove dry leaf and pine litter from roofs, rain gutters, decks and walkways.
-  Before a winter storm, insulate all exposed water pipes outside the home. It is important to allow a slow trickle of water to flow during a winter freeze especially if the faucet is on an exterior wall. *Remember, wrap and drip your pipes for the ultimate protection in a freeze.*

#### Earthquake Awareness

1. Make an evacuation plan and a list of contacts among family members.
2. Make an earthquake food and emergency kit with enough supplies for (3) days
3. Identify (2) escape routes
4. Know how to shut off electricity, gas and water
5. Keep a flash light and sturdy shoes by every bed

For more information on mitigating a disaster log onto: [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org)