



Clatsop County

Community Development – Building Codes

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Notice of Change to Field Inspection Protocol Effective March 31, 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertain safety to our staff I am temporarily suspending all inspections of occupied structures effective immediately and indefinitely. Inspections will continue as usual for new construction and remodel activity on or in structures not yet occupied. My previous direction left the decision of entering occupied structures to the field inspector's judgement. I am rescinding my previous decision. My hope is that our staff will remain healthy by not exposing them to unknown risks and alleviate the anxiousness imposed on them by assigning occupied structure inspections. The work that our staff performs is vital to the safety of our community and I do not make this decision lightly. You know the weight of importance I place on the adopted codes and the belief that what we do collectively is a vital function. However, the safety of our staff is my highest priority.

To further clarify, I do not expect construction activity to cease unless directed by our elected officials. Contractors and property owners should continue to request inspections as normal, however it will be my decision when and how to proceed with inspections of occupied structures. I continue to encourage the use of alternate inspection options, i.e. photographs, texts, video, face time, skype, and similar technologies. This temporary suspension does not eliminate the requirements of licensing, permitting, code compliance, or inspection notifications. Permits authorizing work in occupied structures will not expire during this time and will remain in force. New construction and remodels of unoccupied structures will continue as close to normal as can be expected during this crisis. I fully expect that in time we will be able to return to our normal procedures. I also anticipate a very heavy work load when sufficient time has elapsed and we are able to safely and confidently enter occupied structures. I anticipate the most important questions we receive will involve connecting or restoring utilities and we will address them case-by-case with the safety of our staff as the highest priority.

Please continue to follow the social distancing and associated protocols as directed. Please remain healthy.

David Kloss, Clatsop County Building Official

Please contact David Kloss with any questions you may have concerning this communication.

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