



Department of Permitting Services
Division of Building Construction
255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850-4166
Phone: 311 in Montgomery County or (240)777-0311
Fax: (240)777-6262
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/permittingservices>



Building Safety Month

America will celebrate Building Safety Month from May 1 through May 31, 2012. Each week of the month focuses on a different theme. DPS will organize a series of activities to celebrate this month:

Week One, May 1 – 4 PUBLIC SAFETY

Who needs building codes? We all do — whether in our homes, offices, schools, stores, factories, or places of entertainment. We rely on the safety of structures that surround us in our everyday living. The public need for protection from disaster due to fire, structural collapse and general deterioration underscores the need for modern codes and their administration. Codes save lives. We often refer to code enforcement officials as silent defenders—because they rarely receive recognition for their efforts. Code enforcement officials are on the front line of public safety, making sure the buildings we live, work, play and send our children to school in are safe.

ACTIVITIES

- Proclamation – Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at the County Council meeting
- Deck Safety Presentation – Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at the County Council meeting – 9:45 a.m.
- Free Deck Safety Inspections throughout the month (appointment required)
- DPS lobby display

Week Two, May 7 – 11 ENERGY & GREEN BUILDINGS

When you build green you make a conscious effort to minimize negative impacts and promote positive impacts on both indoor and outdoor environments. Whether you are building from scratch or just looking to increase the energy efficiency of your home, there a number of things you can do to make your home more sustainable.

If you are building a new home, position your house on the lot with consideration for the amount of energy it will consume. In your existing home, using energy efficient light bulbs, sealing air leaks or installing a programmable thermostat are some low cost ways to go green. Building green means living better and simple changes are all it takes to become more environmentally friendly.

ACTIVITIES

- Tips for Green Building and Energy Conservation Presentation – Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at the County Council meeting - 9:45 a.m.
- Free Deck Safety Inspections throughout the month (appointment required)
- DPS lobby display



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Week Three, May 14 – 18 DISASTER SAFETY AND MITIGATION

This week we will focus on disaster safety and recovery. There are many things you can do to ensure that you are prepared in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Plan in advance. Develop a family disaster plan that includes a list of food and water supplies needed for each member of your family, a plan and supplies for your pets, important documents and files, maps of local evacuation routes and emergency shelter locations and a checklist of important things to do before, during and after a disaster.

Protecting yourself does not have to cost a lot of money. One of the most important things you can do is to create a disaster kit and make sure that you and your family knows how to use it.

ACTIVITIES

- Outdoor Safety Presentation – Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at the County Council meeting – 9:45 a.m.
- Free Deck Safety Inspections throughout the month (appointment required)
- DPS lobby display

Week Four, May 21 -25

FIRE SAFETY & AWARENESS

Each year fires take lives and burn numerous structures resulting in mounting costs that have enormous impact on families, communities and businesses. Here are some low cost safety measures you can take to protect your home and workplace.

Purchase an ABC type extinguisher for extinguishing all types of fires. Fire extinguishers should be mounted in the kitchen, garage, and workshop and should only be used on small fires. Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring for wear. Never use a gas range as a substitute for a furnace or as a space heater. Make sure that candles are in a sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holder and are placed where they cannot easily be knocked over. And the most important tip of all – make sure that your home or business is equipped with working smoke detectors. Change your smoke detector batteries when you change your clocks.

ACTIVITIES

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Week Five, May 28 – 31

BACKYARD SAFETY

This week is all about backyard safety. As summer approaches, you need to take the time to check your outdoor areas for potential safety hazards. While most people know that pools are a safety hazard for kids, there are a lot more things to watch out for in your backyard, like barbecues and grills or lawn equipment and toys. Here are some simple steps you can take to help keep your family and friends safe:

- Practice constant, adult supervision around pools and spas
- Designate the grilling area a “No Play Zone” and keep kids and pets away until the grill is completely cool.
- Place your grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging tree branches.
- Regularly perform routine deck maintenance. Replace or repair worn boards or bolts.
- Check all swings, slides and playhouses for sharp objects, rusty metal pieces, breaks or weakened support pieces.

ACTIVITIES

- Free Deck Safety Inspections throughout the month (appointment required)
- DPS lobby display