



City and Borough of Sitka

PUBLIC SERVICES

100 LINCOLN STREET • SITKA, ALASKA 99835

PHONE (907) 747-1804 FAX (907) 747-3158

MEMO

To: Mayor McAdams and Assembly Members
Through: Michael Harmon, Public Works Director, Jim Dinley, Administrator
From: Preston O'Connell, Building Official
Date: September 1, 2010
Subject: FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant

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Background

The Building Department will be bringing an ordinance to the Assembly around the first of the year, as we do every three years, to adopt the latest editions of the various construction codes, including local modifications. This year, for the first time, the International Residential Code (IRC) will include a requirement for the installation of residential sprinklers in all new one- or two-family dwellings. As residential construction is exclusively the province of municipal government, whether to adopt this sprinkler requirement will be an Assembly decision which will likely generate considerable interest within the community. The residential sprinkler provision will be a major focus of our biennial Builder's Seminar, which the Building Department will host on October 28 and 29, 2010. This is a valuable forum for education and discussion for local builders, the general public, and, we hope, Assembly members.

Analysis

One of our presenters at the Builder's Seminar will be a representative of the National Fire Protection Association, who will speak to the issue of residential sprinklers. In conjunction with this presentation, we propose to conduct a side-by-side burn demonstration in the Centennial Building parking lot. This is a nationally-recognized standardized presentation which involves the construction of two units, one equipped with sprinkler protection, one without. We have been offered a \$1,000 stipend for the purchase of materials for this demonstration by the Grants Program Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Impact to the Community

This demonstration will provide valuable education on this important issue.

Fiscal Note

No matching City funds are required.

Recommendation

Approve acceptance of FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant