New Legislature
That we did NOT see coming!

Midway permits issued in Farmington? See what the State of Utah will begin to implement to bridge the gap in our struggle for uniformity.

Monday - Friday
"How-To" Pitty All
The Fools In Your Office
Gold Chains & Mowhawks Optional
I was recently talking with an architect about a complex project and after some time was casually talking about how we got to where we are in life. I told her my interesting story of where I was planning on becoming a surgeon and how through high school had been taking the necessary classes to go along that path for college. During an ecclesiastical mission I had some events occur at home that changed the career path. Upon returning home from South Korea I became the primary care giver to a parent and decided to take “the easier path” and ultimately began working full time for the city in which I lived. After saying this to the architect they laughed and asked me if I thought I actually took “the easier path”? This caused me to think and realize that the path of an inspector/plans examiner or building official is not an easy path at all. We have many things that are complex and a lot of information to digest as well. Now you will see the similarities that I will use to dissect how we are like that of a medical professional. Like the medical profession we have several levels of complexity. The structure components of a building are very similar to the bone structure of the body. It really starts there. I had memorized every bone in the body and was tested to make sure I knew them of course in anatomy class. Now I deal with gravitational loads of a building that make up our walls and foundations. I had memorized all the muscles as well, again for a test. My favorite spaz word for a long time was “sternocleidomastoid” which is the muscle that runs from your sternum up the side of your neck and attaches to the side of your skull base. I now can compare that to the sheathing and diagrams that strengthen the studs to make a building resilient and resist the loads imposed on them. I learned about the respiratory system of the body and the needs that are there to deliver oxygen to key components of the body. This is our ventilation systems, heating and cooling likeness in a home. These systems bring in fresh air and help the home to breath. Likewise, with the nervous system that delivers electrical signals to our brain and controls actions for our body. Our electrical system within a structure is very similar in its operation with a consistent path needed to function to make the building look alive. And finally, the vascular system which carries blood to and from
the heart and lungs to deliver nutrients, oxygen and water to vital organs tissues and rids the body of toxins and delivers cells back to the lungs to refresh the oxygen content to start the cycle once again. We instead deal with a plumbing system that delivers fresh or culinary water and then discharges waste to rid it from the built environment. Even though I may not be a surgeon in a medical field I guess I can say we are their analysts of buildings much the same in our world. We ensure the complexity of structures are sound and functional so they can all work together in harmony to create a safe and environmentally sound piece of art. Just because we do not have a degree or title of PHD. We took a path that is not all that easy after all. I hope you enjoyed the puns and anecdotes that this article provided I have enjoyed the 21 years as a code professional due to the learning every day. I can honestly say that I do learn new things constantly. I am also confident that unlike most teenagers I do NOT know everything.

Enjoy your spring and I hope your body functions with great efficiency.

Jason Van Ausdal
President - Utah Chapter
On March 18th and 19th the Permit Technician and New Inspector training was held in Midway. We had a great turnout, thank you to everyone that sent your permit techs and/or inspectors! We know that it isn’t easy having people out of the office for training, but it is important, and we appreciate your support!

This year we covered Legal Aspects of Code Administration, a few chapters of the IBC, the IZC, and Basic Code Enforcement. Bob Church and Jason Van Ausdal were our instructors and they both did an amazing job... I don’t think I saw even one person sleeping at any time! We also had representatives from DOPL, DAQ, and UDOT come and speak and answer questions – they were all happy to come and talk to us and I would highly encourage you to invite them to trainings in the future, everyone had a lot of questions for them. We also spent a couple of hours on preparing for ICC exams, we all know how tricky the exams can be and it very helpful to give some of our newer permit techs and inspectors some of the tips and tricks we have learned along the way. We had great participation throughout the entire seminar and received a lot of great feedback!

You may have notice that this is no longer called the Annual Permit Tech seminar. We are changing focus and our training will now be geared towards Permit Technicians, New Inspectors, New Plans Examiners, and anyone that is new to the industry in general.

There are a couple of reasons for the change. First, we have a lot of new people entering the industry and training that is specifically created for those that are new to the field or those that are looking to enter the field is in high demand. Permit Techs have been interested in this type of training for years and it only makes sense to expand it a little for a broader audience. Second, due to changes in legislation the funding that we receive to offset the costs of these trainings has changed. The funding we receive used to be calculated based on the total number of attendees, this is no longer the case. Now the funding is calculated based on the total number of licensed inspectors in attendance. This change means we no longer receive funds to offset costs for attendees that are permit techs or plans examiners, unless they also happen to be a DOPL licensed inspector.

With that being said, we need your help! If you have people in your office that have passed an ICC inspector exam but are not licensed with DOPL, please get them licensed!
I know that there are people out there in this situation because I was one of them a few short months ago. I had passed a few inspector exams but never bothered to get my DOPL license because I don’t actually do inspections in the field. Once I found out about this change, I got my license. If you have people in the same situation, please license them. These trainings are important and we don’t want to see them go away due to a lack of funding. Along those lines, if you have someone in your office that has been toying with the idea of taking an ICC inspector exam to build upon their knowledge, please encourage them to do so and to get their DOPL license once they pass. If you have plans examiners that aren’t licensed inspectors, license them if you can. All the chapters are in the same boat on this one and we all need your help so we can receive the funding we need to continue to provide these valuable trainings.

Moving on, huge thanks to the Permit Tech Committee for putting on a really informative and extremely fun seminar. The committee chair this year is Misty Jenkins with West Valley City. We really appreciate all the work she did and the support she receives from her city to do it. And she didn’t do it alone, thank you to the rest of the committee: Patricia Fail, Doreen Bowers-Irons, Tyese Williams, April Touchin, and Melissa Jackson for all of their hard work! And thank you to everyone that supports these ladies and fills in for them while they are gone. We couldn’t do this without them, and they couldn’t do this without your support.

With this one behind us we are already on to planning for next year! Next year we will offer a two-day IRC plan review course that is specifically designed for permit techs and new inspectors and plans examiners. This should be a really good course and we encourage you to send as many people as you can to it. Dates and location will be coming soon!
A friend of mine was telling me not to long ago that her father used to always go out to eat by himself when she was a kid. When I asked why, she began to explain that any time they got the bill her dad would cause a scene about the food being too cold or they had waited forever for their meal. She said he had even walked over to a table once after some other customers had left and grabbed an unfinished plate and started eating from it because he was so hungry and they had already waited so long. How embarrassing! It made me think about how I would handle that type of a customer if I had served his table. What do you do? How do you respond? Do you scramble for an excuse for this unhappy customer and offer him a discount? Do you add that item to his bill and go on about your business helping the rest of your customers? Do you point out the obvious line of people waiting for a table in this busy establishment and explain to him that if he expected “fast”, he should have found himself a drive-up window?

How about when you walk into the grocery store and ask an associate where to find marshmallows. Do you expect them to point you in the direction you might find them or stop whatever they are doing and walk you over to them? What if they ask you to find another associate that knows?

I can’t imagine that you have never been late, out of gas and you left your debit card at home. You stop at the nearest gas station and find 6 people already in line. Do you shove your fists in your pockets and stomp back out to your vehicle just to run out of gas on the way to another gas station? Chances are you wait in line and find yourself wanting to open another register because the cashier is taking “plan review” time to get through this line of people!

You can go to another restaurant, grocer or gas station and you can probably get better and quicker service, but what if you need a building permit?

Do these scenarios remind you of what we put builders through daily? According to builders, absolutely! Can we help make someone’s experience less painful? Absolutely. When I started working for Salt Lake County, my initial reaction to contractors calling in with a last-minute inspection request was to schedule them for tomorrow, just like everybody else. Not my problem. Fortunately for them, Mike Mallory is the inspection supervisor and he would always figure out a way to make it happen, even if it meant scheduling the inspection, leaving 30 minutes early and doing it on his way home. He was a contractor before he switched over to the dark side so maybe he has a soft spot... Or maybe he takes his job seriously and truly wants to help people. Who does that?

How many offices would be shut down next week if contractors were allowed to submit applications to any building department they wanted to within the state of Utah? As permit tech's, we should be making that initial contact as pleasant as possible and any contact thereafter because in a roundabout way, we all kind of are competing for their business. If you can, give them too much information. Go a little bit out of your way. Especially for the difficult ones! Its rewarding to see how easily you can change someone's attitude by your level of service.

(Neutral Legislature: It's April, fool)
Log on to iccsafe.org to order or print these FREE publications for Building Safety Month!
These FOOLS aren't gonna get themselves...
2015 IRC Work Study Group
Tuesday May 7th, 2019
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

* TWO LOCATIONS *

SANDY CITY HALL
10000 S Centennial Pkwy
Sandy, Ut
Conference Room Suite 210

IRON COUNTY VISITORS CENTER
581 N Main St
Cedar City, Ut
West Conference Room

Bring your own lunch!

Contact Brian Abbott with questions
brian.abbott@cachecounty.org
435-213-5510

NO CEU's Included

CONTRACTORS WELCOME
### April 2019

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