



# Building Department Newsletter

February 2012

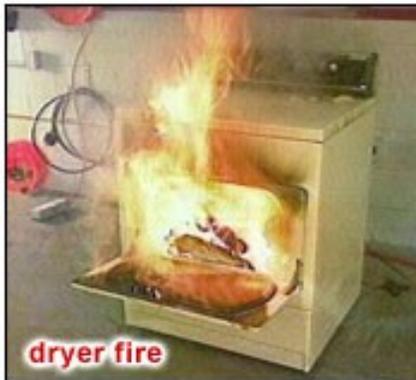
## DRYER DUCT LABELING

### Special points of interest:

- Dryer Duct Labeling
- City offices closed
- Ancient Roman Building Law Trivia
- New IAPMO Certified Plumbing Inspector
- Water Resistant Gypsum Backing Board
- Building Code Interpretation- Electrical Disconnect

The 2009 International Residential Code Section M1502.4.5 requires a permanent label or tag indicating the length of the dryer duct to be installed within six feet of the dryer duct connection. Our inspectors will be looking for the label or tag during the mechanical rough in inspection and at final inspection.

Dryer duct length is critical to the safe operation of the dryer. A dryer duct that is too long will result in a loss of air velocity inside the duct. A loss of velocity in turn causes the lint to stick to the walls of the duct, further restricting the duct's ability to move air and lint. Excessive duct length and lint buildup can cause the dryer to overheat, which can lead to appliance damage and FIRE. Read and follow the dryer manufacturer's specifications for maximum duct length.



dryer fire



lint build-up



improper venting



CITY OFFICES  
WILL BE  
CLOSED:  
MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 20,  
FOR  
PRESIDENTS  
DAY.

### TRIVIA

What is the term used in the 450 BCE Twelve Tablets of Roman building law for providing a then required 2.5 foot fire separation distance around a building?

(Answer on back)

### CONGRATUATIONS to *Dan Harlander*

Dan has passed the IAPMO Uniform Plumbing Code Inspector Exam. He is now an IAPMO Certified Plumbing Inspector. Way to go Dan!!



## GREEN BOARD

Water Resistant Gypsum Backing Board (WRGBB) is commonly referred to as “Green Board” because of the blue/green color of the face paper. Green Board is intended to be used primarily as a base for the application of ceramic or plastic tile on walls and ceilings. Due to the composition of Green Board, there are some limitations to where it can be used and how it is installed.

Installation of Green Board over a vapor barrier is prohibited; such as on an exterior wall that is required to have a vapor barrier by the Washington State Energy Code. Additionally, Green Board must not be installed in areas with continuous high humidity like found in saunas, steam rooms, gang showers, indoor swimming pools or hot tub enclosures. Green Board must not be used where it will have direct contact with water, such as a backing for tile lined sinks, tubs, pools or shower receptors. Cut edges of Green Board should be sealed in a manner recommended by the manufacturer.

When Green Board is installed on walls, the maximum spacing of framing members must not exceed 24” O.C. For ceiling installations, ½” thick Green Board must have framing members spaced no more than 12” O.C. and 5/8” Green Board can be installed where framing members are spaced no more than 16” O.C. Framing can be 2x wood or metal studs; furring strips must be wood 1” by 2”. Installation must be perpendicular to framing supports for walls and ceilings.

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## Policy Statement and Interpretation

The Uniform Codes as well as the International Codes authorize and direct the Building Official to enforce the adopted construction codes. The Building Official is also authorized to interpret and adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of code provisions. The interpretations, policies, and procedures must be in compliance with the intent and purpose of the code providing minimum standards to safeguard life, limb, health, property and public welfare.

The Uniform Codes code provisions often contain detailed prescriptive requirements within the text of the code. The International Codes often contain vague, general or performance provisions referencing standards, or other codes. Both code bodies published code provisions that required the local Building Official to make interpretations and develop policies to clarify the application of code provisions.

The February 1992 Building Department Newsletter contains a policy statement based on the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) requirement for locating the positive electrical means of disconnect adjacent to and in sight from the equipment served. This policy was derived from input and at the request of local contractors and the local gas utility to clarify the intent of the code to provide for the safety of repair or service personnel working on a gas furnace.

The International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) references the need for electrical connection between a gas appliance and the building electrical wiring to comply with NFPA 70. The IFGC text

does not state the required location for the electrical disconnect to provide for minimum safety of gas appliance repair or service personnel. To address this safety concern the basic content regarding electrical connections of the UMC policy will be retained in this IFGC policy.

In order to continue to ensure the safety of service personnel and provide a convenient location of an appliance disconnect for service personnel, *IFGC Section 309 Connections* is interpreted by the City of Pullman Building Official to require the following:

- 1) A positive means of disconnect shall be installed adjacent to and within 30 inches from either side of the front of the furnace or appliance.
- 2) The positive means of disconnect shall be in sight of a person kneeling or standing at the front of the furnace or appliance.
- 3) A circuit breaker in an electrical panel is not an approved disconnect unless it is the only disconnect in the panel.
- 4) Electrical connections between appliances and the building wiring, including grounding of the appliances, shall be in conformance with NFPA 70.

Answer to Trivia: **Ambitus**

Latin meaning “the periphery or external edge”