



MNSPECT

HELPING YOU COMPLY WITH THE CODE

235 First Street West • Waconia, MN 55387-1302

YOUR CODE PROFESSIONALS:

Inspection Personnel:

- Scott Qualle, Designated Building Official
- Ty Turnquist, Operations Director, Senior Commercial Plans Examiner
- Nick Qualle, Senior Residential Plans Examiner/Field Inspector
- Derek Qualle, Rental/Field Inspector
- Dale Engelmann, Senior Plumbing Plans Examiner/Plumbing Inspector
- Steve Horsman, Field Inspector
- Steve Maki, Field Inspector
- Dean Mau, Senior Fire Plans Examiner
- Ermias Mekonnen, Plans Examiner
- Tracy Montgomery, Office Manager
- Wendy Morrissey, Administrative Assistant
- Brandy Blauert, Operations Assistant
- Tamara Stuart, Administrative Assistant

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Wendy Morrissey (5 years)

Stay connected with the MNSPECT MINUTE

August 2016

Why All the Fuss?

To be honest, we have had people question why a permit is required for all types of projects – from reroofs to new homes. There are some people that just don't believe there should be a state-enforced building code. On the other hand, there are certain types of projects that require a building permit, where many people are truly surprised that a permit is required for such work. The following are just a few of these types of projects and some reasons behind the need for a permit:

- **Signs:** There are two major types of signs that our office sees – free standing signs with footings, and those attached to buildings.



Luckily, no vehicle in the wrong spot at the wrong time!



Three people were not so lucky when a sign attached to a brick wall was too heavy for the wall.

The permitting process ensures that footing depth is sufficient, that structures are able to support the additional load, and that signs are fastened in such a way as to not fail.

- **Retaining Walls:** Retaining walls over 4' (from the bottom of the footing to the top of retaining wall) require a building permit. (See our June 2016 Newsletter more information on why a permit is required for a retaining wall.)



This could have caused fatal or critical injuries had someone been in one of these cars!

- **Water and communication towers.**



The Inspection Department's requirements with regards to communication towers and water towers are to ensure that all special inspections are being completed and the tower work is being done according to the engineer's plans.



Does your water heater have a temperature relief valve piped to within 18" of the ground?

If the relief valve is located at or near the top of the water heater, imagine if you or a loved one were walking by the water heater when the steam released! However, if it is with 18" of the ground and pointed towards the ground, it is (most likely) going to just hit the ground.

Do you know where your Property Lines are? If not, it is a good idea to find them before installing a fence or sprinkler system, doing major landscaping, building a deck, or adding on to your home. Prior to going to the expense of hiring a surveyor, you can try to locate them yourself. If you don't have a plan or survey, check with your local city/town hall to see if they have one. Property corners are often marked with rebar or galvanized pipe sunk into the ground. Using the map/plan and a rented metal detector, search for the corner markers.

If you have a story idea for our newsletter or would like to know whether your project requires a permit, please call us at 952-442-7520 or e-mail us at info@mnspect.com.

Upcoming Fair Dates:

- Hennepin County Fair – oops we missed it!
- Washington County Fair – August 3 - 7
- Dakota County Fair – August 8 - 14
- Carver County Fair – August 10 - 14
- McLeod County Fair – August 17 - 21
- MN State Fair – August 25 - Sept 5

Country Living magazine ranked the Minnesota State Fair as one of the Top 5 in the United States – It said that our fair had the best educational exhibits. USA Today named the Minnesota State Fair the Best in the U.S.!