



MNSPECT

HELPING YOU COMPLY WITH THE CODE

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INSPECTION PERSONNEL:

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

City of Glencoe (25 years)
 City of Lester Prairie (19 years)
 Waterford Township (2 year)
 Nick Qualle (11 years)
 Ty Turnquist (11 years)

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ABC...Easy As...123

Continuing education is a way for contractors, building officials, and building inspectors to keep up to date with the building industry. The continuing education requirements governed by the State of Minnesota can help give property owners confidence that any construction, mechanical, plumbing or electrical work done to their property will be done in compliance with the building code, which serves to “establish minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.” Continuing education is necessary as the building industry is exposed to code updates, and ever-changing products, materials, and processes.

Over the past 14 months, the Minnesota Building, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes have all been updated. Building contractors, officials, and inspectors are responsible for becoming knowledgeable on the code changes, and continuing education is an easy (and required) avenue to learn these changes.

In our world of evolving technology, contractors are constantly faced with new products, materials, and processes that can be used in construction-related projects. There are a large number of continuing education options offered from suppliers of these products that offer education on how to install new products in a code compliant manner. In addition, many materials that were used in the past (for example, materials that include asbestos and lead) are no longer allowed – continuing education can help provide this information to those in the construction industry. As we become more knowledgeable on what doesn't work, the processes for construction design and methods change.

MN Statute 326B.0981 requires that continuing education course must be approved by the commissioner of labor and industry. Approved courses will impart appropriate and related knowledge in the regulated industries. Courses designed solely to prepare students for a license examination; courses in mechanical office skills, including typing, speed reading, or other machine equipment; courses in sales promotion; courses in motivation, salesmanship, psychology, or personal time management; and courses that are primarily intended to impart knowledge of specific products or specific companies, if the use of the product or products relates to the sales promotion or marketing of one or more of the products discussed will NOT be approved.

Although most people do not want to sit through more “school,” continuing education provides contractors, building officials, and building inspectors with the knowledge they need to ensure that construction projects meet the minimum standards of the state building code.

MNSPECT is committed to educating those involved in the building trades and inspection industry by providing continuing education classes. Since 2012, Scott has taught over 2,000 student-days of continuing education to building contractors and building officials.

What is a watershed and why is it important?

A watershed is any area of land that water flows across or through. Water in a watershed trickles and flows toward a common body of water, such as a stream, river, lake, or coast.

A healthy watershed benefits:
Human Health – a healthy watershed provides safe drinking water, provides food, enables us to adapt to the impacts of climate change more easily by cooling the air and absorbing greenhouse gas emissions, and provides natural areas for people to keep active and recharge our batteries.

Ecological Health – a healthy watershed conserves water, promotes streamflow, supports sustainable streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater sources, enables healthy soil for crops and livestock and also provides habitat for wildlife and plants.

Economic Health – A healthy watershed produces energy and supplies water for agriculture, industry and households.

Forests and wetlands help to prevent or reduce costly climate change and flooding impacts, help manage drought, and contribute to tourism, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and mining industries.

What can we do to protect our watershed? **1.** Water only where and when it's really needed. **2.** Plant native vegetation. **3.** Redirect rooftop runoff using a rain barrel. **4.** Limit use of pesticides & fertilizers. **5.** Dispose of pet waste properly. **6.** Wash your car on your lawn or at a car wash facility. **7.** Maintain your vehicles to ensure there are no leaks. **8.** Dispose of household chemicals properly. **9.** Properly maintain septic systems. **10.** Keep soil in your yard.

If you have questions regarding this article or have a story idea, call us at 952-442-7520.