



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
- Kandis Hanson, Relationship Manager
- 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 Reimann, Home Inspector
- Tracy Montgomery, Office Manager
- Brandy Blauert, Operations Assistant
- Wendy Morrissey, Administrative Assistant
- Tamara Stuart, Administrative Assistant

INSPECTOR SPOTLIGHT



STEVE HORSMAN

We are pleased to welcome another Steve to our MNSPECT family. Steve and his wife live in Faribault. They spend their time fishing, boating, and bicycling. Steve has been in the inspection business for 20 years and worked in construction for the 20 years prior to that – as he says: “It is all I have ever done.” For Steve, the best part of inspections is providing a safe building environment for the public.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Lakeland Shores (1 year)

Stay connected with the MNSPECT MINUTE

October 2016

Sleeping: Should the bedroom door be open or closed??

This is a straightforward question, but the answer is not so clear cut: “It depends.” There are many variables, such as the location of sleeping rooms, and where smoke alarms are located – keeping in mind that fires can start within a bedroom as well as outside of one.

The most current response by the National Fire Protection Associations (NFPA) as to sleeping with the door closed states that, “a closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected.”

Having working smoke detectors and replacing the batteries twice a year is critical to safety. With the current building and decorative materials, you might have as little as two minutes to escape a home fire, compared to 10-15 minutes years ago.

October 9-15 is National Fire Prevention week, making it a good time to meet with family members and roommates and do your escape planning. Additionally, your college-age kids should know their escape route from their dorm room or apartment building. Go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/basic-fire-escape-planning> and make your plan!



This year’s theme is “Don’t Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 years.” According to online resources, this recommendation comes from the NFPA. Smoke alarms become less reliable with time, primarily due to aging of their electronic sensing components, making them susceptible to nuisance false alarms and failure. In 2009-2013, three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%).

EXCITING MNSPECT NEWS –

Good for us, and for the great municipalities we have the honor of serving!

Aug 2016: MNSPECT was successful in its application for the Municipal Delegation Agreement! According to Kandis Hanson, Relationship Manager, “Now MNSPECT building inspectors have the authority granted by the State of Minnesota to provide plan review and inspections of all public buildings and state-licensed facilities (i.e., schools, jails, hospitals, nursing homes, etc). The benefit goes to MNSPECT clientele!” Under the delegation agreement, all permit revenue that would otherwise go to the State stays with the client municipality. The net result is local control, better response, and some additional revenue to those jurisdictions that MNSPECT serves!

Sept 2016: ISO Scores: Best in the State! The fire department(s) that serve area communities are rated each 3-5 years for their fire suppression ability. The evaluation, performed by the Insurance Services Office, Inc (ISO), includes Fire and Building Inspection Departments and the resulting data assists insurance companies in establishing appropriate risk multipliers for premium calculations. The score calculated for each fire department is applied to all new construction within a community. The criteria for generating the Building Code Effectiveness Rating includes training, certification, capacity, experience, and qualifications of the Building Official and code enforcement personnel; plan review and inspection staffing levels; plan review details; natural hazard mitigation; building code administration.

MNSPECT is pleased to announce its residential and commercial scores are Class 3, which is the top tier! According to Nola Lebrecht, Senior BCEGS Field Representative, “Class 3 is the best result ever given in Minnesota, [one being best.] There have only been a handful in the 10 years I’ve worked in Minnesota.” Once again, MNSPECT clients can potentially benefit through reduced insurance premiums. BCEGS info can be found at the following link: <https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/iso-s-building-code-effectiveness-grading-schedule-bcegs.html>.

Like us on Facebook: MNSPECT – A full-time Building Code Administration service provider
Give us a call and we can answer your building permit questions: 952-442-7520.