

## Development of Building Codes

### Program Description

The MAG Building Codes Committee consists of building officials from MAG member agencies. The committee is responsible for making recommendations on the development, interpretation and enforcement of building codes in the MAG Region. It also provides a regional forum for construction and development issues as they relate to building codes.

### Mission Statement

Encourage and promote uniformity in the interpretation and enforcement of all the Building, Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical Codes adopted by MAG member agencies.

### Did You Know

The MAG Building Codes Committee is one of the original committees at MAG, formed in 1968.

### 2003-2004 Accomplishments

- Adopted a motion to move towards the International set of codes with an effective date of July 2004.
- Adopted Permit Requirements for Residential Solar Domestic Water Heating Systems..
- Adopted a policy to require a tag be placed on clothes dryers that do not meet the mechanical code because they have been altered during installation.
- Adopted a Summary Letter of Recommendations from the Phoenix Residential Post-Tension Round Table Committee.
- Appended the Building Inspectors/ Plans Examiners Meeting to the Regional Plan Review meeting to save time for representatives from member agencies who attend both meetings.

### Building Codes Development

200-0110

#### Follow-up on FY 2004 Outcome Measures

- **Measure:** Five member agencies will institute electronic permitting enabling them to issue selected permits electronically.  
**Result:** *Three member agencies have an electronic permitting process in place. Six other member agencies are investigating the possibility of implementing such a system.*



**Measure:** A guest speaker program will be developed using members of the MAG Building Codes Committee. Three computer slide presentations will be given to associations with a stake in the building and development process to enhance an understanding of the Codes.

**Result:** *The opportunity was reversed and several agencies and individuals with a stake in the building and development process gave presentations to the committee. This provided an opportunity for those people and agencies to learn more about the committee while committee members were educated on issues that were of interest to them.*

**Measure:** MAG Building Codes Committee will reach a consensus and transmit responses to initiatives launched by other levels of government and agencies such as the Arizona Building Officials, the Homebuilders Association, and the American Institute of Architects.

**Result:** *The Building Codes Committee reached consensus on several issues. The committee is constantly communicating with the noted organizations by inviting them to present on various topics and through the direct participation of members in these organizations.*

**Measure:** Three audioconferences and/or videoconferences will be held with the staff of ICBO, ICC and NFPA or other relevant organizations, to discuss the code change process and strengthen uniformity in the development interpretation and enforcement of building codes.

**Result:** *A representative from NFPA spoke to the committee on two occasions regarding NFPA 5000 and the adoption process for this code.*

**Measure:** A matrix, which compares and contrasts MAG member agency programs such as electronic permitting, training in the Building Codes, and Green Building Programs, will be developed in order to identify inconsistencies and develop recommendations to resolve them.

**Result:** *Information regarding the code that member agencies are using was gathered. This information was made available to the Committee on a regular basis. The matrix however; was not prepared.*

## FY 2005 Objectives

- Expedite permitting and facilitate the development of the Building Codes process through the use of e-commerce and the Internet.
- Foster code (plumbing, gas, electrical and building) understanding among MAG member agencies, construction stakeholders, and the general public.
- Provide a forum for consensus responses to initiatives received from other levels of government and agencies.
- Facilitate collaboration with associations related to the building profession on issues of mutual concern.
- Review the actions of the building codes committee since its inception and develop a database of policies and programs that have been adopted. Relevant policies and programs will be entered into a database that will be updated as the committee takes action. The information will be made available on the MAG website for member agencies to use as a reference.

## FY 2005 Outcome Measures

- MAG will conduct monthly meetings of the building codes committee to provide a forum for discussion of current practices in building codes and to allow the committee to discuss items that will promote uniformity in the interpretation and enforcement of building codes in the MAG region.
- MAG will prepare a table containing information as to the status of member agencies with respect to electronic permitting will be prepared. This table will demonstrate the progress that member agencies have made in this area and provide them with information about who has electronic permitting in place so that they will know which jurisdictions use electronic permitting should they require information and resources. This will assist in promoting a consistent approach the use of building codes in permitting and permit review.
- The Committee will invite members of the public to participate in meetings as required by law and they will continue to invite stakeholders in the industry to present to the committee at least once each month. This will allow for an exchange of ideas and assist in promoting uniformity of interpretation in the building codes.
- MAG will develop a database of the relevant actions of the Committee over the last 36 years will be developed and made accessible to members of the committee via the internet. This will provide a reference for building officials and their staff to use when making decisions regarding the interpretation or amendment of a building code. This format will also make consistent information available to people in the building industry who work with the building officials on a daily basis.
- The Committee will receive at least 12 updates from members of the committee itself and invited guests regarding the activities of organizations with issues of mutual concern. The intent is to provide current consistent information regarding new building practices or developments that may affect how they use and interpret building codes in their jurisdictions.
- The Committee will develop a communication device such as a memo, to distribute information regarding the actions the committee takes. The committee will develop a list of interested parties who will receive these updates. This is a proactive approach to informing the appropriate people regarding code interpretations or policies that the committee considers.