



**09-01-08**

## **NEWS FROM THE MECHANICAL INSPECTORS**

### **City of Winston-Salem**

The following information is provided from the Mechanical Inspection Department of the City of Winston-Salem.

#### **Question from a contractor:**

**Smoke Detectors**, Let me first say thanks to the contractor that said it was not clear in the past newsletter if he needed a smoke detector on both systems in a common area if one of them serves an additional space and the CFM exceeds 2000. I had referred you to DOIs interpretation and I should have printed it before. The answer is that both units would need smoke detectors. See interpretation below.

From Billy Hinton (DOI) February 16, 2006

Section 606.2.2 requires that when two or more systems serve a common space and one or more of these systems also serve additional spaces, and the combined capacity of these systems exceed 2000 CFM, a smoke detector is required for each return air system. I hope this helps and thanks for the question.

#### **Contact information to obtain access to an existing dwelling.**

This seems to be a problem for us to gain access to existing homes for replacement systems. Remember it is your responsibility to get your inspector access for your inspection. The following will help us in performing your inspection.

1. Make sure you leave us a good contact name and phone number, always include a work number or a cell phone if possible.
2. Never tell a home owner when we are coming to perform their inspection unless you have made arrangements with the inspector in that area. When you request an inspection that does not mean it will be done the day of the request.
3. If it is rent property, try to get the renters name and number, if that is not available let the owner know we will be calling for access to the residents.
4. Directions are always the biggest help. Use cross streets that we can understand and include any special information in the notes on the inspection request.
5. The inspector will contact the owner before going to perform the inspection, he will try up to three times and may even leave a door hanger on the home if driving by the location. After that he will contact your company contact and explain he cannot gain access and at that time you will need to work with the inspector to

gain access. After all attempts have been made from our department the job will be failed until you get us in.

6. Let the homeowner know that we will be contacting them to perform the inspection. This will help prepare the owner for our call. Keep in mind it is ok to give them the permit number, a lot of owners call for this information and since it is public record we do share it with them. This includes all information and cost of the permit.

One final comment, please don't let your permit expire. All permits are public record and will be shared with the State License board if requested or at any time our department feels like you are not managing your work. Please work with us to get all your permits complete.

**A lot of contractors call to see how many permits we have issued for HVAC work in commercial and residential each month. In July 08 we issued 597 permits, this would include change outs and new construction. Last year in July 07 we issued 629.**

**I would like to hear from you on any comments you have or concerns. Items you wished to discuss please e-mail me and we will respond to your questions and also we will include it each month.**

Please send any comments to [miken@cityofws.org](mailto:miken@cityofws.org) we would like to hear from you.

Thanks

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