



### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

No inspections will be performed on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 due to staff training.

Limited coverage will be available for Plans Review and Licensing functions prior to 12:00 pm.

\*Wednesday afternoons the One Stop is normally closed.

#### Limited Coverage is defined as:

\* Retrieval of Plumbing & Site Utility Plans that you have been called to pick-up.

\* Only license renewals that can be dropped off for processing the next business day.

Thank you for your understanding.



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### Minimum Licensing Requirements:

Once again, WSSC staff will be verifying the credentials of your employees. The following guidelines are intended to create basic overview of license expectations. More detailed provisions and policy enforcement will be provided in the coming months including a level of recognition for out of jurisdiction licenses.

Apprenticeship licenses will not expire; so therefore, renewals shall not be required. Cardholders will be recognized regardless of the expiration date shown on the card. WSSC has no immediate plans to replace expired cards and will notify everyone when that changes.

Apprentices shall not work alone; they must be under **direct supervision** of a journeyman or master plumber/gasfitter. **Direct Supervision** is a journeyman working along side of a first or second year apprentice; or a journeyman continuously close by and available on jobsite and performing **hourly** progress checks on third year (or beyond) apprentices.

**Supervision** is WSSC registered Master (principal or non-principal) or WSSC registered Journeyman Plumber/Gasfitter performing **daily** checks on the progress of other working journeyman. Jobsite/crew **supervision** – **every** jobsite including “service work”, every shift, residential or commercial, shall have a minimum of one WSSC registered Journeyman Plumber/Gasfitter. At the discretion of the code official, large commercial jobsites may require more than one WSSC registered Journeyman (example per crew, per building, per floor). Conversely, and at the discretion of the code official, a single WSSC registered Journeyman may run a few small residential projects. Apprentices shall not be left alone on these smaller jobsites; **direct supervision** is still required.

**Oversight** – WSSC registered **principal** Master Plumber/Gasfitter (company licensee) performing **weekly** checks on progress of WSSC registered non-principal Master Plumber/Gasfitter(s) or WSSC registered Journeyman Plumber/Gasfitter(s).

While aspects of enforcement action will ramp up over time, certain expectations are already in place based on past and ongoing efforts to enforce these protocols. At minimum, a WSSC registered Journeyman Plumber/Gasfitter is expected to provide jobsite supervision at all times, per above.

License holders are expected to have their license and picture I.D. available for review upon request.



### The Enforcer: Violations & Citations

The following is a copy of a WSSC Press Release dated February 7, 2011

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### **WSSC Assists in Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection Lawsuit**

**LAUREL (February 7, 2011):** The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) is assisting the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) in a lawsuit against All State Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Inc. and its master plumber, Wayne E. Garrity, for charging for permit fees but failing to obtain permits and inspections when installing gas water heaters.

The lawsuit is based upon an OCP investigation documenting that more than a dozen consumers were charged \$90 to \$150 for a permit. However, All State failed to apply for or receive WSSC permits, and consequently no inspections were conducted by WSSC.

According to OCP, between January 1, 2009 and May 15, 2010, All State installed approximately 100 water heaters in Montgomery County as the plumbing contractor for a home warranty program sold by American Home Shield. The lawsuit charges that All State Plumbing and its master plumber violated Montgomery County's Consumer Protection Act by charging for services it did not provide.

WSSC is making every effort to contact customers with recent appliance (water heaters, furnaces, ranges, grills, generators, dryers and fireplaces) installations to perform the necessary inspection. Such devices are dangerous if not properly installed and can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. If you have had an installation and have not had a WSSC permit or inspection performed please contact:

Ed James at 301-206-8616 or email: [ejames@wsscwater.com](mailto:ejames@wsscwater.com) or the Inspection Services Scheduling at 301-206-4004.

WSSC also urges consumers in Montgomery and Prince George's counties who have recently paid a contractor to install any new gas appliance to contact the authorities if they believe the work was not performed with a permit and/or not inspected by WSSC. Residents in Montgomery County can contact the Office of Consumer Protection and residents in both counties can contact the Maryland Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection. Any improperly installed gas appliance can cause unsafe levels of carbon monoxide.

WSSC has assisted OCP as part of an on-going effort to provide WSSC Customers with the peace of mind and assurances that the installation/replacement of a gas appliance or related plumbing work has been properly installed. Unlicensed contractors are a problem and citizens should be vigilant in hiring licensed contractors to perform plumbing and gasfitting work in their home.

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## Master Plumber & Master Gasfitter Newsletter

### The Enforcer: Violations & Citations

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continued:

When faced with having to replace existing appliances or installing for the first time, consumers should consider the following:

1. Price comparison -- It is recommended you get three to five prices for the work involved.
2. Get the proposal in writing. The price should include the required \*WSSC Permit Fee (\*permit fee includes the required inspection by the WSSC Inspection Services Staff).
3. Once you have decided on the contractor, do the following;
  - A. Verify the WSSC Permit has been secured.
  - B. Check the installer's license.
  - C. Schedule the inspection. The Installer should provide you with this information and the scheduling procedure is noted on the WSSC Permit.
  - D. The day of the Inspection, verify the time as noted above if necessary.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact the Office of Consumer Protection at 240-777-3636 or email at [consumerprotection@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:consumerprotection@montgomerycountymd.gov). Residents of both Montgomery and Prince George's counties may also contact the Maryland Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection at 410-528-8662 or [www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us).

### FOG Unit Tips for NOV's:



The FOG (Fats Oils and Grease) Unit's job is to get every working, qualified food service establishment (FSE) in the WSSD initially inspected by the end of this year. By working, we mean "open for business" and by qualified we mean they appeared on the 2010 Health Department list of permitted food serving businesses and they meet minimum standards for FOG production, of any quantity.

Part of the initial inspection includes noting any and all WSSC Plumbing Code violations, the majority being related to specific FOG-related items.

The most common violations are:

- Improper tail pieces from sinks / potential for overloading the flow rating of a GAD\*
- Garbage disposal to GAD
- One or more kitchen fixtures not connected to GAD inside or out (flow or volume based)
- Unfamiliarity with maintenance requirements/needs for a GAD.
- Older/outdated/obsolete kitchen devices or plumbing needing modernized.
- Applicable floor drains not connected to interceptor
- Applicable floor mop sink not connected to GAD inside or out
- No interceptor / passive GAD for amount of wastewater that can potentially be discharged
- Wrong / unapproved device for grease removal

\*GAD-Grease Abatement Device: categorized as flow or volume based by Section 1003 of WSSC Code

Whenever an NOV is issued, besides clarifying the NOV verbally, the FSE representative is given a fact/procedure sheet for responding to their NOV.

The info sheet is divided into three sections:

1. READ YOUR NOTICE OF VIOLATION
2. SELECT A PLUMBER LICENSED WITH WSSC
3. INFORM WSSC WHICH PLUMBER YOU SELECTED

Continued on page 4

This article will cover section 2:

**SELECT A PLUMBER LICENSED WITH WSSC**

- The WSSC recommends obtaining a price quote from at least three WSSC Registered Master Plumbers to complete the repairs as noted on the NOV
- NOTE: WSSC Staff is not permitted to recommend plumbers
- If you would like to verify that your Plumber is licensed with WSSC and in good standing, please call 301-206-8588.
- After you have selected a Plumber, provide him with a copy of your NOV along with the paper titled "INSTRUCTIONS TO PLUMBER".

On random occasions, even after being told that no recommendations for plumbers can be made and being directed to re-read it in the written notice, an FSE owner will attempt to query the Investigator again (and again).

The Investigator must stand firm. However, this does not prevent an FSE owner from pursuing only one plumber and saying "WSSC recommended him" regardless of the accuracy of the statement.

In 2010, over 60 plumbing firms had FOG NOV work that were submitted to the FOG Unit from nearly 500 NOV's.

In the next newsletter we will cover the general expectations of the Plumber performing work on FOG NOV's.

### **Cross-Connection:**



The WSSC Cross Connection web page has been updated. To access the new webpage, click on the link below:

<http://www.wsscwater.com/home/jsp/content/cross-conn-index.faces>

Or follow these steps:

Go to [www.wsscwater.com](http://www.wsscwater.com); click on Businesses; click on Regulatory Services; scroll down the page to Cross Connection Control Program and click.

### **Message from the Licensing Desk:**



Save money on late fees...renew your WSSC license prior to the expiration date. Many renewal notices get returned to WSSC because the addressee has moved. If your mailing address has changed, send a fax (301-206-8253) or email ([bhouser@wsscwater.com](mailto:bhouser@wsscwater.com)) to Beverly Houser with your new address. Be sure to include any new contact phone numbers.

Per section 113.1 of the WSSC 2011 Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code, "All licensees shall be responsible for keeping address and telephone information current with the Commission. Address and phone number corrections and changes shall be transmitted in writing."

### Meet our staff:

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From our Cross-Connection Control Unit, meet Cross Connection Investigators pictured below from left to right; Jay Farmer, Ralph Sweitzer and Bill Hoerichs. Their goal: to protect the public water supply against actual or potential contamination through cross-connection and backflow. Their job: currently their primary focus is on commercial buildings in the bi-county area for backflow protection. They are making sure that backflow assembly devices are in place, properly installed and have passed the required testing. Where this is not the case, they are making sure that devices are installed, tested, are in working order and brought up to standard code in a timely fashion.

Together, they have over 47 years of experience working in the WSSC's Regulatory Services Group.

### Contact Us:

Plan Review.....	301-206-8886
CC/Bkflw.....	301-206-8601
Licensing.....	301-206-8588
Short Form Inspection.....	301-206-4004
Long Form Inspection.....	301-206-8383
Gaithersburg/Seneca Depot.....	301-206-7365
Lyttonsville Depot.....	301-206-7340
Temple Hills Depot.....	301-206-7302
FOG.....	301-206-8575
Permits.....	301-206-4003

### Trade Trivia

- Albert Einstein was named an honorary member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union after saying publicly that he would become a plumber if he had to do it all over again.
- Famous and often controversial rockstar Ozzy Osbourne was a plumber's apprentice before getting into the music industry.

### WSSC HOLIDAY

WSSC will be closed on Monday February 21, 2011 in observance for President's Day.



### We would like to hear from you:



Tell us what you think about this newsletter. Email your comments to: [bhouser@wsscwater.com](mailto:bhouser@wsscwater.com)