

SAFETY CODE PERMITS – WHY THE NEED?

At Lac Ste Anne County we are frequently asked: Why do we need to obtain a Safety Code Permits? Under the Alberta Safety Codes Act “any person/contractor who undertakes any process, construction, operation or maintenance of or builds or installs any thing to which the Safety Code Act applies shall ensure that the Act is complied with”.

As of July 1, 2006 Lac Ste. Anne County will be implementing a “**DOUBLE FEES**” penalty for any contractors/homeowners who initiate work prior to permits being applied for and or issued. The County hopes that this will act as a deterrent if any construction, maintenance or installation in a building or structure takes place without having the required Safety Code Permits in place, first.

Obtaining all the Safety Code Permits (building, electrical, plumbing, gas, & private sewage permits) are a requirement of the Alberta. Safety Codes Act. The Act is also in place to ensure that buildings are constructed and maintained in a safe manner for the protection of human life. The Safety Codes Act, Alberta Building Code and other applicable Codes and Standards regulate how buildings are designed, built, or renovated to protect the health and safety of the occupants.

Safety Code Permits also regulate changes or installations to the electrical, gas and plumbing and private sewage systems of a building or structure. Non-permitted (un-inspected) installations may threaten the safety of the occupants of the building if not done properly. The Safety Codes Act requires permits be taken out in the electrical, gas, plumbing and private sewage disciplines and that these installations must be inspected by a Safety Codes Officer to insure the work, materials and changes conform to all applicable Codes and Standards.

The taking out of permits for all work carried out and inspection of that work is an assurance and protection for the building owner (and future owners) and the occupants that the work has been done according to the Safety Codes Act and meets today’s Codes and Standards. More and more, Insurance Companies and Financial Institutions are requesting proof that a building and its systems are built according to all Codes and Standards as set out by the Province of Alberta and the Safety Codes Council.