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Volume 4 Spring 2014

## BUILDING SAFETY: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks



### **Building Safety Month 2014 : A Celebration of Building Safety Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks**

To help raise awareness of building safety, the department of Community Development and Code Compliance proudly celebrates Building Safety Month during May. Building Safety Month is a public safety awareness campaign to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe, resilient, affordable and energy-efficient homes and buildings.

“When our building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings and review construction plans to ensure code compliance they help to ensure the places where you live, learn, work, worship and play are safe,” said PG County, Building Official, Jeff Brown “We work closely with homebuilders, contractors, plumbers, roofers and other construction industry trades to provide maximum public safety.”

For more info on Building Safety Month, visit the [BSM Web Page](#).

## **Tips to Keep Your Lawn GREEN ...and the Chesapeake Bay CLEAN**



There are millions of lawns in Virginia. Improper or excessive fertilization of these lawns can add potent chemicals to our streams and the Chesapeake Bay's fragile ecosystem.

You can have a great yard while protecting local water quality. Follow these simple steps recommended by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Cooperative Extension. The [Complete Article](#) includes tips on: Choosing the Best Grass; Growing a Greener Lawn; Fertilizing; and Watering.



## **2012 VIRGINIA CODE CYCLE UPDATE**

DHCD is reaching the end of the regulatory process that will result in the 2012 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Codes (VUSBC). Tentatively, they anticipate the new codes to be effective on July 14, 2014. As a reminder, there is a one-year grace period after the effective date that allows customers to choose either the new codes or the prior edition. Please check the [DCHD Website](#) periodically for updates.



## **Code Enforcement Update: Grass Cutting Season**



The winter weather is behind us and grass has begun to grow. Tall grass and weeds create hazards to neighborhood residents and contribute to an unkempt look and feel to a neighborhood. Tall grass can harbor trash and hazards which can be dangerous to neighborhood occupants and children. Pests are more comfortable in these overgrown conditions. A highly overgrown lot becomes very dry in the heat of summer and

is a potential for a fire hazard. County Code requires that tall grass and weeds be kept under 15 inches in height. The Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development and Code Compliance Department investigates all complaints of tall grass and issues notices when a violation is found. A property owner is given ten days to correct a tall grass violation. If the violation is not corrected within ten days, the County may contract a grass cutting service to remedy the violation. The cost incurred by the County for grass cutting services is required to be paid by the property owner. For more information on this or other Property Maintenance topics, please visit the [Code Compliance Web Page](#) or call the Department of Community Development and Code Compliance at 804.722.8659.

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