

PHRC News



PHRC

Getting in touch

Contact us to find out more about the PHRC or to obtain assistance.

www.engr.psu.edu/phrc

PHRC

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PENNSTATE



PHRC's 11th Annual Pennsylvania Housing Conference

Uniform Construction Code Update Flashing Details That Work PA's New Stormwater Policy The Liability Storm

Same conference...two locations:
February 19, 2003 ~ Monroeville
March 6, 2003 ~ Harrisburg



SAVE THE DATE!



Climate Chamber at PSU

Reviews

Reviews

Moisture Workshop

About 60 people—builders, developers, architects, educators—attended two one-day workshops on Moisture Control in Buildings. The first workshop was held in Harrisburg on October 15, the second was in Pittsburgh on October 17th. This workshop consisted of a series of alternating presentations by Eric Burnett of Penn State and John Straube from the University of Waterloo in Canada. The program before lunch was devoted to Building Science, i.e., the basic principles involved in the control of not only moisture but also heat and air into, within, across and out of the building enclosure. The afternoon sessions were directed at the performance of enclosure components, i.e., roof systems, wall systems, both above and below grade, base floors, etc.

The participants in the workshop were attentive and the question and answers sessions were lively. Based on both questionnaires and individual comments, the workshop was very well received.

Accessibility Workshop

The Centre Region Code Administration sponsored a workshop entitled "Accessibility Requirements of the International Building Code (IBC)". About 75 people were in attendance at the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State University on August 14, 2002.

Mr. Brian D. Black, Director of Building standards for the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA), co-presented the workshop with Ms. Jennifer L. DePaul, Senior Regional Advocate in Pennsylvania for the EPVA. The workshop covered the provisions of Chapter 10 (Means of Egress), Chapter 11 (Accessibility) and 34 (Existing Buildings) of the IBC. The proposed Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and its integration with the IBC was also discussed.

PSU News

NAHB Student Chapter at PSU

This year the student chapter of the National Association of Home Builders has 24 paid-up members drawn largely from the Civil and Environmental, Architectural Engineering and Architecture Departments.

At the awards dinner held on November 7th, the following awards were then made:

Five \$1,000 Travel Awards to attend the NAHB Convention in Las Vegas in January 2003 to:

- Jenny Holden and Joshua Nicholson presented by Chuck Farrell on behalf of the PBA
- Timothy Nolan and Kelly Brennan presented by J. Roger Glunt on behalf of the NAHB
- Joseph Piñon presented by J. Roger Glunt on behalf of the J. Roger Glunt Fellowship at PSU

Six \$1,000 Scholarships to:

- Kelly Doyle presented by Mrs. Henrietta Hankin
- Keith Beidel presented by Eric Burnett on behalf of the Ryland Group
- Edward Marberger presented by Chris Schoonmaker on behalf of the BA of Central PA
- Christopher Flynn presented by Kellie Zollers on behalf of Toll Brothers
- Jenny Holden presented by Chuck Farrell on behalf of the PBA
- H. Joseph Henry presented by J. Roger Glunt on behalf of the J. Roger Glunt Scholarship

During the past 3 months, the Chapter has organized three meetings at which topics such as women in the Housing Business, Interior Design and careers in Housing were addressed. The NAHB Student Chapter at Penn State continues to provide support for local Habitat for Humanity initiatives. In an effort to promote some hands-on experience, the chapter has coordinated several workday trips to the Port Matilda habitat project.

J. Roger Glunt Fellowship

The 2002/03 J. Roger Glunt Graduate Fellowship has been awarded to Joseph Piñon, a graduate student in Architectural Engineering. Joseph, is working on the potential for ventilation drying in exterior wall systems.

Calendar of Events

Date	Meeting/Course/Workshop	Location	Contact Information
December 5	The UCC Plumbing for Contractors Program	BA of Northwestern PA	Paula (814) 833-3999
December 5	The UCC Mechanical for Contractors Program	BA of Northwestern PA	Paula (814) 833-3999
December 10 - 11	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-03)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
December 10 - 11	Comprehensive IRC Program	Blair County Builders Association	Bob Buddenbohn (717) 573-2694
December 10 - 11	Comprehensive IRC Program	Lawrence County Builders Association	Amy Kunselman (724) 658-4432
December 11 - 12	MHRC -Fundamentals of On-Site Completion	Holiday Inn - Beaver Falls, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768

Schedule for 2003

January 10 - 11	Comprehensive IRC Program	West Branch Susquehanna	Walt/Marion Nyman (570) 326-4211
January 14 - 15	Comprehensive IRC Program	Lehigh Valley Builders Association	Rebecca (610) 432-4101
January 14 - 15	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-01)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
January 16 - 17	Comprehensive IRC Program	Westmoreland County BA	Nancy Murphy (724) 850-2800
January 29	BOCA/CABO Transition Program	S&A Homes	Ron Strawser (717) 226-2133
January 31	Comprehensive IRC Program	BA of Northwestern PA	Paula (814) 833-3999
February 1	Comprehensive IRC Program	BA of Northwestern PA	Paula (814) 833-3999
February 12 - 13	Comprehensive IRC Program	Franklin County BA	Gene Silver (717) 267-2208
February 14	PHRC 11th Annual Pennsylvania Housing Conference	Monroeville, PA	PHRC (814) 865-2341
March 6	PHRC 11th Annual Pennsylvania Housing Conference	Harrisburg, PA	PHRC (814) 865-2341
March 19 - 20	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-03)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
April 16	PHRC Industry Advisory Council Meeting	State College	PHRC (814) 865-2341

Training

The Pennsylvania Housing Research Center, with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Builders Association is proud to announce the creation of three new courses to be presented to builders, design professionals and individuals associated with construction of homes within the Commonwealth. These three courses are the result of requests from PBA members for a more in-depth focus on the specialty trades.

International Energy Efficiency Code

Since Pennsylvania has not had an enforced energy code until passage of the Uniform Construction Code, all building contractors and building inspectors will need to learn the new energy code requirements and how to apply it in residential construction. Software and other tools for compliance will be presented. This program is intended for all building contractors, design professionals and code officials. This program will not cover commercial or industrial requirements.

The UCC Plumbing for Contractors

This program will familiarize individuals with Chapter 25 through 33 of the IRC. The focus is on common code violations as identified by Pennsylvania code officials, the changes between the BOCA code and the new code that Pennsylvania is preparing to adopt. The program will address boring and notching and fire blocking, along with an overview of the UCC. Participants will become familiar with methods used for venting, the factors that impact water pipe sizing and water conservation requirements, along with the design requirements of water distribution.

The UCC Mechanical for Contractors

This program will familiarize individuals with Chapter 10 and 12 through 24 of the IRC. It covers the requirements for the Residential Mechanical code and how to apply them. The program is targeted for HVAC contractors, installers, design professionals (e.g. engineers and architects) along with individuals responsible for the enforcement of the code. Included in this program is the review of ACCA Manual J software to accurately size the equipment and ductwork for a particular project and discussion of topics of concern for area contractors. Particular attention is given to the most common code violations occurring in the construction of homes.

Construction Code Training for Teachers

The PHRC, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, conducted three building code seminars for Career and Technical educators during August. These two-day sessions were held at the Lehigh Career and Technical Center (CTC), Cumberland/Perry CTC, and Eastern Westmoreland CTC. The goal of the program was to help construction teachers prepare to implement the requirements of the new code into their curricula.

These pilot programs have generated significant additional interest and requests for education of vocational teachers across the Commonwealth. With the success of these pilot programs, the PHRC has been invited to participate in the Governor's Institute for Career and Technical Education in July 2003. This event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

PA Construction Code Academy

In an effort to consolidate the training for individuals associated with the implementation of the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) in Pennsylvania, the Department of Community and Economic Development's Governor's Center for Local Government Services has created the Pennsylvania Construction Code Academy (PCCA). Through its contracted training organizations, PSAB and BSATS, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the Pennsylvania Housing Research Center has been invited to partner with the PCCA to help implement training programs. The PHRC was selected because of their experience in training over 3,000 code officials, builders, and contractors in PA. The PCCA has scheduled classes to prepare individuals to become code officials. The goal of the Academy is to make classes convenient for participants by coordinating training and testing at as many locations as possible throughout the Commonwealth.

For information on building code training in your area, visit the PA Code Training Consortium's (CTC) website.

www.engr.psu.edu/ctc

Residential Land Development Activities

In response to industry needs, the PHRC has begun a focused initiative to address land development issues as they impact the residential housing industry. An initial goal of this effort is to identify how the PHRC can best serve as an independent third party to promote more affordable housing and development practices while maintaining an adequate and appropriate level of environmental and regulatory control on the development process. To this end we have, and are continuing to schedule meetings with local home builders associations, local government officials, planners and other and stake-holders to identify critical land development issues affecting the industries' ability to efficiently deliver affordable housing to the people of the commonwealth. To date the most critical issues identified include uniformity in land development standards (among adjoining municipalities), road width standards, and stormwater management and best management practice standards.

To address the issue of standards consistency and uniformity, The PHRC is working to pull together a

coalition of stake-holders in the residential land development process to address the need for standards uniformity. This group would include representatives from state and local regulatory agencies, design professionals (engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, etc.), builders and developers, land-use attorneys, solicitors, municipal engineers, and others interested in residential development issues and standards. Our goal is to have a first coalition meeting in the spring of 2003.

Stormwater management and best management practice standards are another identified area of concern. The most significant issue appears to be promotion and enforcement of non-science based and somewhat arbitrary design standards for infiltration and other stormwater best management practices. This practice adds unnecessarily to the cost of delivered housing. This issue has been initially identified as a significant concern for development in municipalities in the eastern urbanized portions of the state. However, as the new State Stormwater Policy and NPDES II regulations are implemented statewide, it is anticipated that this will become a uniform problem in all areas of the state. To address this issue, the PHRC is actively pursuing opportunities for research, training, and standard developments in this area.

In response to a request from several home builder representatives, the PHRC has prepared a graphic outlining the typical subdivision and land development process in PA. This graphic includes an estimated timeline to go along with a flow chart documenting the planning, design, and regulatory steps in the subdivision process. This document is available in draft form. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of this document may contact the PHRC.



We're on the Web
www.engr.psu.edu/phrc/

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Membership

A portion of the financial support for the PHRC is obtained from membership fees. Financial and other forms of support for the PHRC are very important. Industry-based funding, individual or corporate or association, is critical for our continued operation. We warmly welcome the new members of the PHRC. We thank new and existing members for their support of the PHRC and its efforts to serve the home building industry in PA.

Leadership Members

Bradford & Burns
Builders Association of Northwestern PA
Cannon Custom Homes
CertainTeed Corporation
Dow Chemical Company
DuPont Nonwovens
Glunt Development Co., Inc.
Granor Price Homes
Hankin Group
HBA of Chester and Delaware Counties
HBA of Metro Harrisburg
Homebuilders Association of the Alleghenies
Lehigh Valley Builders Association
Mercer County Builders Association
Office of Community Development & Housing
PA Manufactured Housing Association
Penn State University
Pennsylvania Association of Code Officials
Pennsylvania Builders Association
Pennsylvania Builders Association
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
Roy Newsome
Ryland Group, Inc.
Superior Walls of America, Ltd.

Supporting Members

Benjamin Obdyke Incorporated
Builders Association of Central Pennsylvania
Cedar Knoll Builders
Comfort Home Corporation
Greater Dubois Builders
Lackawanna HBA
Lebanon County Builders Association
Liberty Homes Custom Builders
Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
Pulte Home Corporation
S&A Custom Built Homes, Inc.
Weyerhaeuser Company
York County Builders Association

Patron Members

Edward W. Moore, All Star Homes
Bob Buddenbohn, Blair County BA
Robert Smith, Borough of Fox Chapel
Howard Ermin, Center for Independent Living of South Central PA
Myron Nypaver, City of Uniontown
Mandas Kavadias, Concord Township
Brennan Glantz, Engineering Projects Inc.
Joel Farkas, Farkas Associates
Gene Silver, Franklin County BA

Bill Kulbacki, Guardian Inspection Services
Erik Harless, Hanson Design Group, Ltd.
Tim Ward, Hanson Design Group, Ltd.
James Karnes, Insealtite Insulation Company
Paul Campbell, Insurance Restoration Service
Jeffrey Irwin, Irwin Contracting
Jeffrey Kline, Jeffrey Wyant Kline Architect
Jack Willenbrock, JHW C/M Consultant
Russ Braun, Jones Township
Paul Kearney, Kearney Inspections, Inc.
Stephen Schoch, Kitchen & Associates
Lester Brehm, L. Eric Brehm Contracting
Paul Albert, Larson Design Group, Inc.
William Kurtz, Lebanon Cty. Planning Dept.
Gilbert Smail, Madison Engineering
Timothy Palaski, Middle Department Inspection Agency
Angela Miller, Miller Construction
Paul J. Finley, Nolen Companies, Inc.
Perry Cisney, Perry L. Cisney Inc.
Bob Flowers, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
John Kelly, Pocono Builders Association
John Stahl, Preferred Solutions, Inc.
Joe Hughes, Professional Training Assoc., Inc.
Mike Queen, Queen Engineering
Harry Raymond, Ray-Core, Inc.