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PRESS RELEASE

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The important role of building safety professionals

Kerrville, Texas (May 12, 2023) – Week 2 of Building Safety Month introduces you to the important role that building safety professionals play in keeping our homes, schools, and businesses safe.

Who are Building Safety Professionals?

While you're probably very familiar with what your local police and fire departments do, you may be less familiar with building safety professionals. In that way, building safety professionals are the silent defenders of public safety.

Here are a few things you should know:



City of Kerrville Building Inspector Jason McMurray and interim Chief Building Official Aaron Barnes

- Building safety professionals include building inspectors of all kinds, building officials, plans examiners, permit technicians, fire marshals, and more.
- Building safety professionals are constantly training and keeping up with the latest codes and standards.
- Their knowledge spans every aspect of the life of a building – from the bottom of the foundation to the top of the roof – and everything in between.
- Many building safety professionals have experience as architects, engineers, contractors, or even government officials.
- There are many paths available to become a building safety professional.

What do they do?

Building safety professionals provide guidance and advice to architects, engineers, and contractors to help them bring building projects to life while ensuring safety for occupants and residents. They also help keep existing buildings safe by conducting inspections and adopting the latest building codes. They are community-oriented and dedicated to making the world a safer place. Building safety professionals:

- Protect the public through their commitment to building safety.
- Enforce code compliance to empower and educate partners to embrace and integrate safety standards in their work.
- Ensure that buildings are constructed to withstand the stress of everyday use.

- Perform safety checks that protect your home from emergencies before fire, flood, or disaster strikes.
- Support economic development by making our buildings sturdier, and therefore longer lasting.
- Play a significant role in community planning decision making as a connection between government, business, and built environment partners.

When to call a professional?

Always check with your local building department before beginning home improvement projects. Requirements vary, but most building departments require permits for home improvement projects, including electrical, mechanical, structural, or plumbing work. Follow-up inspections provide a measure of safety to protect your life and property.

Code officials ensure that building codes are followed by:

- Conducting site inspections.
- Providing code interpretation support and consultations.
- Advising on renovations and rebuilding.
- Issuing building plan and permit approvals.

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