

Worried About Getting Permits & Inspections After A Big Hurricane????

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN!

- **Get Your Permits Handled Now**– Not When the Building Department Finally Gets Around to Them.
- **Get Your Inspections On Time** - When You Need Them.
- **Get Priority Plans Review** - By An Expert With A lot of Experience on Both Sides of The Permit Counter.

I am sending this to alert you to a solution to a major problem which will likely be facing you and other contractors trying to respond to a hurricane event. If a hurricane does significant damage this year, the situation will be far, far worse than the chaos in Florida after Wilma. At that time, affected building departments were overwhelmed. It was difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming to get a building permit. It was next to impossible to get the required inspections needed to keep jobs progressing. I believe that the situation will be much worse after the next “big one”, because, in general, building departments have drastically cut back their numbers of inspectors and plan reviewers. One laid-off inspector I plan to hire told me that his former jurisdiction had cut back from 60-full-time inspectors to just 12!!! How will that building department be able to handle an avalanche of permit applications and inspection requests after a hurricane??? After Hurricane Wilma, affected building departments were at or near full manning levels. Also, some building departments “borrowed” inspectors and plans reviewers from jurisdictions which had not been hit. Such aid from non-affected building departments is much less likely to happen now, because most building departments have cut back and there are no “extra” inspectors and plans reviewers to “borrow”!

What’s the solution???? Florida Statute 553.791!!! -Use a private provider (PP) for your plans reviews and inspections. The most direct, easily accessed, source of PP information is found on the Miami Dade Building website (M-D). Control click the following hyperlink (if that M-D page remains hidden **hit the minimize button on this one**) <http://www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode/bo-alt-plan-review-inspection.asp> .

Miami Dade has some other very useful information which I’ll be happy to explain to you. The Florida Building Code Information System (BCIS), accessed by hyperlink www.floridabuilding.org, can also be very helpful. If you have trouble with either, phone me at **813 909 1956** and I’ll talk you thru the process.

I can help you with permits and inspections, because I am a licensed, insured, experienced private provider. Further, I am building a network of ICC-certified, building inspectors and plans reviewers who extend my reach beyond what I can physically do by myself. I am one of only 32 licensed private providers registered with Miami-Dade. Most engineers are not willing to spend \$10,000 (or more) per year for the professional liability insurance required by F.S.553.791– most engineers are “going bare”, e.g. they don’t have any professional liability insurance (much less the required \$2-million). This means they cannot, legally, perform private plans review and inspections.

I am currently establishing working relationships with a limited number of contractors - commercial jobs only, no ATFs (after-the-fact permits or inspections). My organization will give high priority to client plans reviews. Our mission is to ensure your plans are code-compliant the first time they hit the building department. This will reduce the time required to get permits issued (building departments are required to issue a private provider reviewed permit within 2-weeks or justify refusal). My organization will do inspections on time! I am sending this first to a few roofers in areas of Florida having a high probability of hurricane activity. I plan to sign up all of my clients- right now -up front- before the event. This is because I expect to be fully occupied with existing clients when the “big one hits”. So, I do not plan to add new clients then. Therefore, it would be smart to contact me now.

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