



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Teton County updates building & fire codes***

**Jackson, Wyo., Nov. 18, 2016** – Updated building and fire codes -- which are aimed at reducing fire hazards and ensuring human safety in buildings and homes across the valley -- will go into effect in Teton County on Jan. 1.

County officials this week signed off on three updated sets of standards for 2017, bringing Jackson Hole in line with 2015 International Building, Fire and Residential Codes as required by law in the State of Wyoming.

County Building Official Kelly Sluder and Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Fire Marshal Kathy Clay explained that codes are routinely updated every three years, and Teton County is required to adopt minimum standards that are equivalent to, or more stringent than, standards set by the State of Wyoming.

On Tuesday, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners approved the following resolutions so that the new regs could be in place in time for the new year:

- 2017 Teton County Building Code Resolution,
- 2017 Teton County Fire Code Resolution, and
- 2017 Teton County Fire Protection Resolution for New Subdivisions.

Buildings under construction at the time of adoption of the new codes will be grandfathered under the standards that were in place at the time of permitting.

Architects, engineers, builders and property owners impacted by the updates can access the updated 2017 codes on Teton County's website at <http://www.tetonwyo.org/docs/2017-building-fire-updates.pdf>. Sluder said he didn't expect any of the changes to be overly problematic for Teton County builders or property owners.

Fire Marshal Kathy Clay explained that the periodic code updates aim to ensure basic levels of protection against a range of potential hazards, including electrical fires, earthquakes and wildfires. The standards are vetted by national teams of industry experts -- and reviewed by local fire and building officials -- to carefully balance risk of human life versus costs to builders and homeowners.

"That's the whole intent of these codes that you adopt every three years," Clay told county commissioners. "I appreciate you keeping in mind and being sensitive to an important piece of this -- the cost and impact of the codes versus the benefit for reducing risk to citizens."