

LEWIS Toby A

From: Rick Smith
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2016 4:04 PM
To: LEWIS Toby A
Subject: RE: Please Review & Respond: Proposed Code Revisions RE: Access to Properties in Flood Hazard Areas (LU-16-057)

Toby,

Thank you for the note. After reviewing this document I found no issues from the Monroe RFPD's point of view.

Rick Smith
Fire Chief
Monroe RFPD



From: LEWIS Toby A [mailto:Toby.A.LEWIS@co.benton.or.us]
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 5:13 PM
To: Chuck Harris <adair@adair-rural-fire.com>; haneydp@proaxis.com; lora.ratcliff@cityofalbany.net; 'alseafire@peak.org' <alseafire@peak.org>; bldgttdave@aol.com; adamdryan@gmail.com; Rick Smith <rsmith@monroefiredept.org>; rich.saalsaa@philomathfire.com
Subject: Please Review & Respond: Proposed Code Revisions RE: Access to Properties in Flood Hazard Areas (LU-16-057)
Importance: High

You are receiving this notice because I am proposing some changes to the floodplain development requirements for Benton County that I would like your input on. (This is the e-mail that I mentioned last week.)

The proposed changes are intended to clarify the information a person needs to turn in when requesting approval to divide land in a floodplain.

I am hoping that each of you will be able to review the proposed code language as soon as possible (preferably before next Tuesday) and then e-mail/call me with your comments. (toby.a.lewis@co.benton.or.us – or – 541-766-6296) I have included the proposed code language at the end of this e-mail and as an attachment to this e-mail (see Section 83.605 on pages 83-16 & 83-17).

Right now our code says that:

- Emergency vehicles need to be able to access all new parcels that are in/partially in a floodplain; and
- Planning staff needs verification from the fire district that this access is available

LEWIS Toby A

From: Richard Saalsaa <rich.saalsaa@philomathfire.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 01, 2016 6:03 PM
To: LEWIS Toby A; Chuck Harris; haneydp@proaxis.com; lora.ratcliff@cityofalbany.net; 'alseafire@peak.org'; bldgtdave@aol.com; adamdryan@gmail.com; Rick Smith; Tom Miller
Subject: RE: Please Review & Respond: Proposed Code Revisions RE: Access to Properties in Flood Hazard Areas (LU-16-057)

Hi Toby:

As it turns out I am deep in codes and planning these two weeks at the National Fire Academy. I happen to be with several people and have run this proposal past them (some from Louisiana – prone to flooding) and this looks good. I agree that the current wording would send something to us to look at that had no scope. This puts things into great perspective.

I have nothing to add, and great work!

Rich

Lt. Richard M Saalsaa

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<http://www.philomathfire.com>



From: LEWIS Toby A [mailto:Toby.A.LEWIS@co.benton.or.us]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 September, 2016 20:13
To: Chuck Harris <adair@adair-rural-fire.com>; haneydp@proaxis.com; lora.ratcliff@cityofalbany.net; 'alseafire@peak.org' <alseafire@peak.org>; bldgtdave@aol.com; adamdryan@gmail.com; Rick Smith <rsmith@monroefiredept.org>; Richard Saalsaa <rich.saalsaa@philomathfire.com>
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LEWIS Toby A

From: David Feinberg <bldgtdave@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 02, 2016 12:48 PM
To: LEWIS Toby A
Subject: Re: Please Review & Respond: Proposed Code Revisions RE: Access to Properties in Flood Hazard Areas (LU-16-057)

Toby,

This is my personal take as Fire Chief on this issue and does not necessarily reflect the position of our board of directors.

While I appreciate the goal of making access safe for our responders in case of flooding, I have concerns about some of the implications of the changed wording (and the original code, as well).

- 1) Our department is not trained or equipped to determine if a proposed driveway would be safe for our vehicles.
- 2) We are not trained or equipped to do water rescue or drive in flood waters. I would be very hesitant to send my crew over a roadway they can not see. Even state and county road surfaces and integrity can be quickly degraded by floodwaters,
- 3) If we compel the home owner to build a drive way to specifications they would have the expectation that we would respond. The idea that some one will come along to rescue them might incline people to stay in their homes too long rather than evacuating at an appropriate time.
- 4) This could make some driveways very expensive. We already antagonize builders with the width and turn out requirements. It would be a deal killer in some cases.
- 5) People who want to build and live in the country assume a certain amount of risk. Trees that could fall on homes, wildfire, isolation in case of earthquake, loss of water access. These concerns also occur in the urban environment, but are increased in the rural setting by limited infrastructure. Most people understand and accept these risks. More stringent regulations will not necessarily result in safer conditions.

Thanks

Dave Feinberg
Fire Chief
Blodgett-Summit RFPD

-----Original Message-----

From: LEWIS Toby A <Toby.A.LEWIS@co.benton.or.us>
To: Chuck Harris <adair@adair-rural-fire.com>; haneydp <haneydp@proaxis.com>; lora.ratcliff <lora.ratcliff@cityofalbany.net>; 'alseafire@peak.org' <alseafire@peak.org>; bldgtdave <bldgtdave@aol.com>; adamdryan <adamdryan@gmail.com>; Rick Smith <rsmith@monroefiredept.org>; rich.saalsaa <rich.saalsaa@philomathfire.com>
Sent: Wed, Sep 28, 2016 5:13 pm
Subject: Please Review & Respond: Proposed Code Revisions RE: Access to Properties in Flood Hazard Areas (LU-16-057)

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LEWIS Toby A

From: Ratcliff, Lora <Lora.Ratcliff@cityofalbany.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 8:03 AM
To: LEWIS Toby A
Subject: RE: Please Review & Respond: Proposed Code Revisions RE: Access to Properties in Flood Hazard Areas (LU-16-057)

Sorry for the late response Toby, I have been out for a few days. Albany Fire appreciates you including us in this discussion. I don't see any changes to the new proposed language you provided.

Thank you,



Lora Ratcliff
Senior Deputy Fire Marshal
City of Albany Fire Department
PO Box 490 | Albany, OR 97321
541-917-7728 phone | 541-791-0133 fax
lora.ratcliff@cityofalbany.net

From: LEWIS Toby A [mailto:Toby.A.LEWIS@co.benton.or.us]
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 5:13 PM
To: EXTERNAL - Adair Rural Fire; haneydp@proaxis.com; Ratcliff, Lora; 'alseafire@peak.org'; bldgtdave@aol.com; adamdryan@gmail.com; Rick Smith; rich.saalsaa@philomathfire.com
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Right now our code says that:

- Emergency vehicles need to be able to access all new parcels that are in/partially in a floodplain; and
- Planning staff needs verification from the fire district that this access is available

The **purpose of the requirement** is to make sure that we are not allowing new parcels to be created that might increase safety risks for your staff during a flood event.

The **problem with the current wording** is that it requires us to get verification from you but doesn't specify what information should be submitted in order to make that determination and the information we/you need (how high the driveway surface is compared to how high the floodwater will be) is neither available nor required.