

BUILDING INSPECTOR I

DEFINITION

Under general direction, to conduct inspections of residential, commercial or industrial building structures and installations during construction, alteration, and repair; to determine that construction, alterations, and repairs are in conformance with County Building Codes and ordinances; to answer questions regarding code enforcement and structural requirements for the public, architects, engineers, and contractors; and do related work as required by the Assistant Building Official.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is an entry-level position for the Building Inspector classification series. Incumbents are required to learn and perform building inspection and building code enforcement duties for residential, commercial, and for manufactured homes that are installed outside of mobile home parks. They are required to possess knowledge of the California Building Code, California Plumbing Code, California Mechanical Code, California Electrical Code and Title 25 requirements for manufactured home inspections.

REPORTS TO

Director of Planning and Building, Assistant Building Official or Senior Building Inspector.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Makes field inspections of residential, commercial, or industrial structures in varying states of construction, alteration, or repair.
- Interprets applicable codes, ordinances, and regulations for builders and homeowners and insures compliance.
- Checks the quality of materials and methods of construction for electrical, plumbing, mechanical, framework, concrete, masonry work, lathing, plastering, tile work, and roofing.
- Inspects completed work, giving approval to acceptable structures and installations.
- Writes correction notices for plans and works with contractors to follow-up on plan changes.
- Investigates violations of building and zoning laws.
- Inspects existing buildings to determine health or safety hazards, structural failures, or the need for maintenance and repair.
- Inspects commercial structures.
- Inspects mobile home installations.
- Issues building permits.
- Gives advice to contractors and individuals on construction procedures and practices.
- May perform special reviews of grading plans and perform grading inspections.
- May inspect construction and repair of County buildings and structures.
- Assists in more difficult and complex field inspections and code interpretations and applications.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; ability to climb, stoop, crouch and kneel; crawl through various areas, including under floor and attic areas, requiring moving on hands and knees; walk on sloped ground and uneven surfaces; lift and move object weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed in office, outdoor, and driving environments; work is performed in varying temperatures; exposure to dust, chemicals, and gases; exposure to dampness, exposure to insects; exposure to hazards such as moving machinery parts, electrical current; continuous contact with staff and the public.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Practices, tools, equipment, and materials used in the general construction trades.
- Accepted safety standards and methods of building construction.
- Qualities of various construction materials.
- Building and related codes and ordinances enforceable by the County.
- Uniform Building, Plumbing and Electrical Codes.
- State Housing Act of California.
- General knowledge of County Zoning and Land Use Ordinances.
- Inspection methods and techniques.
- Principles of mathematics related to the building trades.

Ability to:

- Perform building inspections, enforce codes and ordinances, and examine workmanship and materials.
- Apply a variety of inspection methods and techniques.
- Detect deviations from laws, regulations and standard construction practices.
- Read, interpret and explain building plans, specifications and building codes.
- Make arithmetical calculations quickly and accurately.
- Apply technical knowledge of building trades work.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Provide advice on standard construction methods and requirements.
- Enforce regulations with firmness and tact.
- Prepare clear and concise written reports.
- Deal tactfully and courteously with the public.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.
- Operate a personal computer and use appropriate software in the performance of Building Division tasks.

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TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Any combination of training and experience, which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities, is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

EITHER:

1. Three years of experience using the uniform construction codes in the construction and building trades; **or**
2. Certification as a Permit Technician and three years of permit technician experience; **or**
3. Possession of a valid International Code Council (ICC) certificate, or its equivalent, in either Building, Mechanical, Electrical or Plumbing Inspection.

Special Requirements:

Possession of a valid drivers license at time of application and possession of a valid California Drivers License by time of appointment. The valid California Drivers License must be maintained throughout employment.

In addition, Certification as a Combination Inspector, by ICC or its equivalent, must be obtained within one year from date of appointment and must be maintained throughout employment.