


**NYC.gov NEWS**

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## What's New

### UPDATE ON CITY'S RESPONSE TO SEVERE WEATHER

In the wake of Wednesday's storm, Buildings inspectors and engineers conducted assessments of buildings in the affected area, and as a safety precaution, issued vacate orders to those buildings that sustained serious damage or damage that prevents safe occupancy. In order to re-occupy vacated buildings, property owners need to:

- Hire an architect or engineer to assess the damage
- Provide a remediation plan for repair work
- File applications with the Department of Buildings
- Obtain permits to conduct the necessary repair work

Repair work cannot commence without filing applications and obtaining permits. To speed repair, the [Brooklyn Borough Office](#) will facilitate job filings for remedial work. If your building was vacated because of storm-related damage or if you need to retrieve personal belongings from vacated buildings, please call 311 or the Buildings Customer Service Center at (212) 227-4416. Buildings Customer Service representatives will be available to assist those affected by the storm Monday - Friday from 8am to 8pm and Saturday - Sunday from 9am to 5pm. For more information about storm repair, view our [FAQs](#) (27 kb-pdf). For information on architects in Brooklyn: contact the [American Institute of Architects](#) Brooklyn Office at (718) 259-0070.

## Jail Sentence For Scaffold Death

### Information You Need To Know

On July 24, 2007, Nasir Bhatti and Tariq Alamgir, owners of Metla Construction Inc., were sentenced to six months in jail for the death of construction worker Mohammad Jabbie. Jabbie, who fell from a scaffold in June 2005, was not wearing a safety harness at the time of the accident. In December 2006, Bhatti and Alamgir pleaded guilty to charges relating to the scaffold fatality. For more information about the guilty pleas, view the [press release](#) from the U. S. Department of Justice or an article from the [Daily News](#) for more information about the sentencing. For information on the [Scaffold Worker Safety Task Force](#) (36 kb-pdf) created in November 2006, view the [press release](#).

## New Required Items for New Building and Alteration-1 Applications

Information You Need To Know



In an effort to provide a cleaner and more energy-efficient New York, beginning September 4, 2007, the Department of Buildings will require that all New Building and Alteration-1 Applications include an Energy Analysis and a drawing set that demonstrates the use of the information outlined in the Energy Analysis. These documents must be submitted in conjunction with the Professional Statement of Energy code compliance (currently

required). View the [fact sheet](#) (28 kb-pdf) to learn more about these new required items. Visit the [Energy Code](#) section of our website to read detailed guidelines for complying with the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code.

## Manhattan Borough Office Pre-Filing Process Change

Making It Easier

In an effort to reduce the Pre-Filing wait time, the [Manhattan Borough Office](#) now pre-files and processes the following Alteration-3 applications as drop-offs: Fences, Sheds, Hoists, and Scaffolds. If you are pre-filing one of these job applications, leave the documents with a customer representative at the Pre-Filing desk and it will be reviewed and available for pick-up the next business day.

## After-Hour Work Variance Permits

Information You Need To Know

After-Hour Work Variance permits for cranes are issued by the Cranes and Derricks Division and by the [Borough Offices](#), depending on the nature of the work. Applications for variance permits to modify a crane should be submitted to Cranes and Derricks and applications to use a crane for after-hours construction work should be submitted to the appropriate Borough Office. View the [service announcement](#) (27 kb-pdf) for more information on where to apply for an After-Hour Work Variance permit for cranes.

## Queens Extends Plan Examination Appointments

Making It Easier

Continuing our commitment to make it easier for the public to do business with us, the [Queens Borough Office](#) now offers 40 minute time slots for applicants filing a New Building application to meet with Plan Examiners. This additional time allows applicants to work with Plan Examiners to address any problems or concerns with the job application. View the [service announcement](#) (25 kb-pdf) to learn how to make an appointment.

## *Buildings Around Town*

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## National Night Out Against Crime



On August 7, 2007, Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster participated in the 24th Annual National Night Out Against Crime. [National Night Out](#) is an event that brings together citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,500 communities across America to promote public awareness about crime prevention. View [photos](#) from the event and the Mayor's [press release](#).

## Reminder

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### "No Penalty" Retaining Wall Inspection Program



Take advantage of our "No Penalty" Retaining Wall Inspection Program before it ends on September 3, 2007! For the duration of the inspection program, homeowners may call 311 and request a visual examination of their private retaining wall by a Buildings Department inspector. Under the "No Penalty" program, violations will not be issued for the condition of the retaining wall. View the [press release](#)

for more information about the program. To learn more about [retaining walls](#) (709 kb-pdf) visit our website at [www.nyc.gov/buildings](http://www.nyc.gov/buildings).

## Did You Know?

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Did you know that new [flood insurance rate maps](#) will become effective September 5, 2007? These maps are used by the Buildings Department to ensure compliance with special construction requirements in FEMA designated flood zones. To view a copy of the new maps, visit FEMA's web site at: <http://msc.fema.gov/>

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