



**Nassau County Building/Code
Enforcement Department**
96161 Nassau Place
Yulee, Florida 32097

Bulletin G- 10-15

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 8, 2015
TO: Property Owners, Fence Contractors and Permit Staff
FROM: Michael Griffin, CBO, CFM, Building Official
SUBJECT: Fence permits

Recently property owners have installed solid board or metal fences along property lines that are well over 6 feet in height, some nearly 10 feet in height. During a high wind event this represents an extreme hazard to surrounding property unless the fence is properly designed.

Section 312 Utility and Miscellaneous Group U of the Florida Building Code (FBC) classifies fences more than 6 feet (1829 mm) high as a Group U structure. This section requires such utility structures to conform to the FBC with respect to fire and life hazard incidental to the occupancy.

The Nassau County Commission by Resolution 2015-85 dated June 22, 2015, exempted fences not exceeding 6 feet in height from obtaining a building permit. Therefore, fences exceeding 6 feet in height (from ground elevation) will be required to obtain a permit and must conform to the Florida Building Code with respect to wind design. Fence permits may be issued to licensed general, building and residential contractors and fence contractors, or owner/builders that qualify with an owner building exemption.

Design requirement for fences exceeding 6 feet in height:

- Chain link or open wire fences shall be designed using FBC Section 2328.3 or be designed by a State of Florida licensed engineer or architect in conformance with FBC Chapter 16 Structural Design.
- Solid fences (wood, metal or pvc) shall be designed using FBC Chapter 16 Structural Design.

Permit applicants must complete a building permit application, submit a site plan of the subject property showing the location of the proposed fence, along with the required fence design by a State of Florida licensed engineer or architect. A footing and final inspection of the proposed fence must be made by the Nassau County Building Department.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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