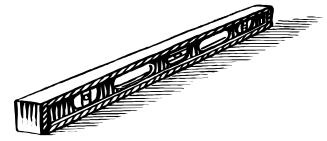


# The Straight and Level

An Independent Newsletter from the  
Home Builders Association of the Upper Rio Grande  
Established 2005  
Issue No. 28



## February 2009



### Presidents Message

Bob Van Iwaarden

“AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL”

The United States has the reputation all over the world of being the one place where you can get a sure return on your hard work. Everyone in the world knows that if you can get to the United States you have a chance to make it and maybe make it BIG! These days while we struggle to fix our economy, recapitalize and rewrite our laws we must be careful to preserve our “essence”.

And just what is that “ESSENCE”? It is ingenuity, individual hard work and our country’s foundation.

**Ingenuity:** Every day we hear stories of clever people, who in the face of adversity, rise above a situation that would discourage many. We smile and envy them and resolve to be quicker and better and just maybe someone will write about us!

**Hard Work:** Most all of us can say that we are hard workers and we know we are smart enough to learn just about anything we might need so as to move ahead or be better at what we are already doing. Many of us may need to tweak our career so we can succeed in the future. Most of us are not going to be offered a bail out so we, the hard workers, will ultimately be the backbone that works out this recession.

**Foundation:** The founding fathers who designed this country knew what they were doing, probably because of where they had come from. They wrote laws that do not tie anyone to the place in society into which you are born and unless something is specifically illegal you can do it!

From Mexico to Argentina the King of Spain and his friends conquered and owned all the land at one time. Their laws, even today, are such that unless the law specifically permits something, it is illegal until you get that changed.

The United States even with its faults is still regarded around the world as the best country to start with nothing and based on only hard work, ingenuity and passion of the person doing the work, anything can be accomplished! That’s why so many people are trying to get here.

So; “we must preserve this environment. While we bail out, buy up, write new laws and re-regulate, we must be sure not to mess with what has made America what it is, a place where hard work and ingenuity are all that are really needed to succeed”. (Quoted from Pat Wiesuer, retired CEO of Wiesuer Media).

Bob Van Iwaarden  
President

2009

#### HBAURG Board of Directors

President: Bob Van Iwaarden

Vice President: Keith Helmstetler

Secretary: Ron Marx

Treasurer: Brett Zielke

Directors: Leonard Brown  
Grover Hathorn  
Pat Martinez  
Dick Shaw  
Don Smit

HBAURG Board Meetings are held monthly, 2 weeks prior to the Monthly Membership Meeting and Dinner, which is held the last Tuesday of the month.

#### COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION FOR NAHB MEMBERS

**February 16-March 13, 2009**

By Bee Marx

NAHB is offering a new member benefit to help answer questions and alleviate some of the financial pressure experienced during these extraordinary times. The law firm [Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP](#) has agreed to provide a free consultation to NAHB members in the following three areas:

- **Bankruptcy/Reorganization:** Bankruptcy, reorganization, out-of-court workouts, restructuring, foreclosures, deficiency judgments
- **Business Structures:** Director/officer issues, partnership issues, personal guarantees, business divorces
- **Operational:** Liens, developer disputes, subcontractor disputes

This valuable member-only service will be available beginning February 16 and will run through March 13, 2009. To take advantage of the service you will need to go to <http://www.nahb.org/legalconsultation>. From there, members will be directed to a page with Frequently Asked Questions in the three areas mentioned above. For questions not answered, a post may be sent to the law firm, which will be responded to by email or phone.

For more information on this program, contact David Jaffe at [djaffe@nahb.com](mailto:djaffe@nahb.com)



**SAFAX**  
With Dick Shaw  
Certified Safety Professional  
Rio Grande Safety and Health, LLC  
873-5484

## Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

With the wide use of portable tools on construction sites, the use of flexible cords often becomes necessary. Hazards are created when cords, cord connectors, receptacles, and cord- and plug-connected equipment are improperly used and maintained. Generally, flexible

cords are more vulnerable to damage than is fixed wiring. Flexible cords must be connected to devices and to fittings so as to prevent tension at joints and terminal screws. Because a cord is exposed, flexible and unsecured joints and terminals become more vulnerable. Flexible cord conductors are finely stranded for flexibility, but the strands of one conductor may loosen from under terminal screws and touch another conductor, especially if the cord is subjected to stress or strain.

A flexible cord may be damaged by activities on the job, by door or window edges, by staples or fastenings, by abrasion from adjacent materials, or simply by aging. If the electrical conductors become exposed, there is a danger of shocks, burns, or fire. A frequent hazard on construction site is a cord assembly with improperly connected terminals.

Also, when a cord connector is wet, hazardous leakage can occur to the equipment grounding conductor and to humans who pick up that connector if they also provide a path to ground. Such leakage is not limited to the face of the connector but also develops at any wet portion of it. When the leakage current of tools is below 1 ampere, and the grounding conductor has a low resistance, no shock should be perceived. However, should the resistance of the equipment grounding conductor increase, the current through the body will also increase. Thus, if the resistance of the equipment grounding conductor is significantly greater than 1 ohm, tools with even small leakages become hazardous.

### What is a GFCI?

A GFCI is a fast-acting circuit breaker that senses small imbalances in the circuit caused by current leakage to ground and, in a fraction of a second, shuts off the electricity. The GFCI continually matches the amount of current going to an electrical device against the amount of current returning from the device along the electrical path. Whenever the amount "going" differs from the amount "returning" by approximately 5 milliamps, the GFCI interrupts the electric power within as little as 1/40 of a second.

The GFCI, however, does not protect from line-to-line contact hazards—such as a worker holding two "hot" wires or a hot and a neutral wire in each hand. It protects against the most common form of electrical shock hazard—the ground fault, and protects against fires, overheating, and destruction of insulation on wiring.

GFCIs can be used successfully to reduce electrical hazards on construction sites. Tripping of GFCIs—interrupting current flow—is sometimes caused by wet connectors and tools. It is good practice to limit exposure of connectors and tools to excessive moisture by using watertight or sealable connectors.

Providing more GFCIs or shorter circuits can prevent tripping caused by the cumulative leakage from several tools or by leakages from extremely long circuits.

GFCI monitors the difference in current flowing into the "hot" and out to the grounded neutral conductors. The difference (1/2 ampere in this case) will flow back through any available path, such as the equipment grounding conductor, and through a person holding the tool, if the person is in contact with a grounded object.

It is the employer's responsibility to provide either: (a) GFCIs on construction sites for receptacle outlets in use and not part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure; or (b) a scheduled and recorded assured equipment grounding conductor program on construction sites, covering all cord sets, receptacles which are not part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure, and equipment connected by cord and plug which are available for use or used by employees.

The employer is required to provide approved GFCIs for all 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacle outlets on construction sites that are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure and that are in use by employees. If a receptacle or receptacles are installed as part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure and they are used for temporary electric power, GFCI protection shall be provided. Receptacles on the ends of extension cords are not part of the permanent wiring and, therefore the cord's receptacle, must be of the GFCI type whether or not the extension cord is plugged into permanent wiring. These GFCIs monitor the current-to-the-load for leakage to ground.

OSHA 1926 Subpart K contains the requirements for ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). These requirements will help reduce the number of injuries and accidents from electrical hazards. GFCI protection is required in addition to, not as a substitute for, the grounding requirements of OSHA safety and health rules and regulations, 29 CFR 1926. The requirements which the employer must meet, if he or chooses the GFCI option, are stated in 29 CFR 1926.404(b)(1)(ii).



## Notes from Bee

Contact Bee to make dinner reservations, 873-5440 or email at hbaurg@aol.com



### FEBRUARY 24TH—MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND DINNER

**Location:** Hungry Logger Restaurant, South Fork  
Roast Beef Dinner with mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll and cheesecake for dessert. Coffee, Tea or Pop.

**Time:** Social Time 6:00, Dinner at 6:30

**Cost:** \$15.00 per person—Reservations are recommended\*  
\*Reservation Deadline ~ Noon, Thursday Feb.19th

**Member Spotlight:** Lohn Owens, Right Carpet and Interiors

**Meeting Sponsor and Speaker:** Sheldon Lowder, Comfort Zone Insulation will be this months meeting sponsor and speaker. He will be introducing his new

**Speaker:** business, Energy Audits.



May everyone have a wonderful day with your Valentine!



### **FUN FACTS** by Bee Marx

**What do the letters CVS in the giant drugstore chain stand for?**

- a. Customers Value System
- b. Consumer Value Stores
- c. Customer, Value and Service
- d. Chocolate Vanilla Strawberry

The answer is c.

As the retail pharmacy division of CVS Caremark, CVS used to be a subsidiary of Melville Corporation until Melville changed its name to CVS Corporation in 1996. The initials once stood for Consumer Value Stores, but CEO Tom Ryan has said he now considers it to stand for "Customer, Value and Service."

**Insurance giant AFLAC is an abbreviation for what?**

- a. Albert and Frank L. Anderson Corporation
- b. American Fire and Life Assistance Company
- c. American Family Life Assurance Company
- d. A Florida Corporation

The answer is c.

Also known as "AmFam," AFLAC is a private mutual company that focuses on property, casualty and auto insurance. It began on October 3, 1927, when insurance salesman Herman Wittwer opened the doors of Farmers Mutual Insurance Company in Madison, Wisconsin.

**What do the three letters in shipping giant's name UPS stand for?**

- a. US Packing and Shipping
- b. US Package Service
- c. United Parcel Service
- d. United Parcel Shipments

The answer is c.

Founded in 1907 as American Messenger Company by two Seattle teenagers who delivered using bicycles, the company was renamed Merchants Parcel Delivery in 1913, with purchase of its first Model T and merger with another service. It then became United Parcel Service in 1919.

**You probably have ordered flowers from FTD, but what is it an abbreviation for?**

- a. A Floral Tradition
- b. Florists' Transworld Delivery
- c. Flowers That Deliver
- d. Ft. Dietrich

The answer is b.

FTD was organized on August 18, 1910, as Florists' Telegraph Delivery, by a group of 15 retail florists who agreed to exchange their out-of-town orders, signaling the orders to each other by telegraph. After WWII it had expanded abroad, thus changing its name to Florists' Transworld Delivery in 1965.



**Sign up for one of the following teams to help during the upcoming Home & Garden Show in April at Ski Hi Park in Monte Vista.**

**Facilities**—The Facilities Team will provide physical support primarily at the beginning and end of the show, but also as needed during the show as issues come up. We need the largest number of volunteers for the Facilities

Team to setup booths, run electrical drop cords, move tables & chairs, and help with tear down and clean up of the facility after the show. The Facilities Team will also provide crossing-guards from the parking lot to the facility.

**Vendor Support**—This Team will be the liaison for vendors and provide support and help to vendors before, during and after the show. This will include providing pre-show information to vendors, name badges for show participants, vendor give-a-ways, survey questionnaires, booth location charts, booth issues, etc.

**Attendee Support**—This team will help by working at the main entrance by counting attendees, giving tickets for drawings, Public Address sound system, HBA membership registrations, responding to attendee questions, First Aid, Food Court, etc.

All Teams will help with set up, tear down, and clean up. Contact Bee Marx at 719-873-5440.



# 5th Annual Home and Garden Show



presented by the Home Builders Association of the Upper Rio Grande

**Ski-Hi Park ~ Monte Vista, Colorado**

Saturday April 18th—9 am to 5 pm and Sunday April 19th 10 am to 4 pm

## Show Off What Your Business Has To Offer!

*The 2009 Home & Garden Show is a great opportunity to jump start your business for 2009 and beyond!*

The 2009 Home & Garden Show will be advertised in the newspapers and radio!

*All Vendor Types Are Welcome!*

Builders ~ Home Interiors ~ Nursery & Landscaping ~ Artists ~ Realtors to name a few

We still have booths available at a discount rate for HBA members. At the 2007 Home & Garden Show, over 1700 attendees visited vendor booths. That number grew to 2450 attendees at the 2008 show. That is a lot of exposure in just two days. Many of our vendors stated that they made a lot of money from those two days of the show. Don't miss this great opportunity. For booth information and availability, contact Bee Marx at 719 873 5440.

## *Are You Registered?*

### Indoor Booths 10' x 10'

HBA Members: Prime Booth \$275 Standard Booth \$250  
Non Members: Prime Booth \$325 Standard Booth \$300

### Outdoor Booths 40' x 40'

HBA Members: Standard Booth \$250  
Non Members: Standard Booth \$300

### Additional Rentals:

Electricity to Booth(s) \$25 Table & 2 Chairs \$25

Both indoor and outdoor booths are still available, but they are going fast so act quickly. For booth availability and show information contact Bee Marx at 719 873 5440.

### *~ Sponsorships ~*

If you don't want a booth, you can still get your business name in front of potential customers by being a show sponsor. There are three types of Sponsorships available: Platinum \$900 (1 only), Gold \$625 (1 only), and Bronze \$225 (unlimited number). As a sponsor you will get your business name mentioned on the radio or in newspaper advertising depending on your level of sponsorship and name recognition at the show. This is a great way to show your support for HBA and to advertise your business. Contact Bee Marx at 719 873 5440 for details on show sponsorship.

### VENDOR CONTRACT CONDITIONS

- \* 50% payment is due with signed contract if booth reservations are made before February 6, 2009. The remaining 50% is due no later than February 22, 2009.
- \* Full payment is due with signed contract if booth reservations are made after February 6, 2009.
- \* Booth locations are based on "first come—first served" basis.
- \* No refunds for booth cancellations after February 22, 2009.
- \* Booth setup is Friday, April 17, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- \* Booths must be manned both Saturday and Sunday. Booths cannot be removed until 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 19, 2009.
- \* Security is provided for inside booths. No security is provided for outside booths.
- \* Booths must be removed and completely cleaned of debris by 5 p.m. Sunday, April 19th or an additional cleaning fee of \$75.00 will be assessed.
- \* No smoking or loud music will be allowed in your booth.
- \* This event will be advertised extensively in area newspapers and on the radio prior to the event.
- \* Vendor "give-aways" and drawings must be coordinated with event management.
- \* Make checks payable to HBAURG, P.O. Box 1210, South Fork, CO 81154. Verification of booth status and number will be sent via return mail, or email, to the address indicated on your application.

2009 Home and Garden Show Chairman ~ Dan Hicks, Mountain Lighthouse and Gallery  
719-873-5810 (office) OR 719-849-3421 (cell)

## **NEW FORM I-9 EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION FORM REQUIRED FOR NEW HIRES** By Bee Marx

The [Department of Homeland Security](#) has delayed until at least April 3 the implementation of a revised Form I-9, which is used to verify the identity and work authorization of all newly hired employees. This means that all employers must continue to use [the current \(old\) edition of Form I-9](#).

The revised form, the second in two years, was originally scheduled to go into effect on Feb. 2.

As it is now written, the primary change to the revised form eliminates expired documents — such as expired passports and driver's licenses — from being used as proof of identity. However, the rule is now under review by the Obama Administration, and it may be subject to further modifications or withdrawn.

Homeland Security has also extended through March 4 the period during which it will accept written comments on the changes to the form.

For more information, e-mail [David Crump](#) at NAHB, or call him at 800-368-5242 x8491.

## ***Executive Officer's Report*** By Bee Marx

### **NAHB APPLAUDS ANSI APPROVAL OF NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING STANDARD**

The National Green Building Standard for all single-family homes, apartments and condos, land development and residential remodeling and renovation was approved January 30, 2009 by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The approval of the standard signals a new era for the nation's builders, remodelers and developers and also provides an extra measure of reassurance for home buyers, said Joe Robson, Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

"The National Green Building Standard is now the first and only green building rating system approved by ANSI, making it the benchmark for green homes," said Ron Jones, who chaired the consensus committee charged with developing the standard.

"The standard provides home builders and remodelers with a much more expansive third-party rating system that they can use to achieve 'Green' certification under NAHBGreen and the National Green Building Certification Program," said Mike Luzier, CEO of the NAHB Research Center.

The Research Center provides certification for NAHBGreen projects, which until now have only included single-family homes. "Consumers are looking for authentic, verifiable green building practices, and now they'll find them with a true industry consensus standard for residential green building," Luzier said.

The standard defines what green practices can be incorporated into residential development and construction and how home owners can operate and maintain their green homes.

But the National Green Building Standard also provides for flexibility – allowing home builders and home buyers to make green choices based on climate and geography as well as style preferences and budget.

## **First Aid Training Resources for the San Luis Valley** By Dick Shaw

According to OSHA regulations 1926.50, each employer shall ensure the availability of medical personnel for advice and consultation on matters of occupational health. Provisions shall be made for prompt medical attention in case of serious injury. In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, hospital or physician, that is reasonably accessible in terms of time and distance to the worksite, which is available for the treatment of injured employees, a person who has a valid certificate in first-aid training shall be available at the worksite to render first aid.

Since many of us work in remote areas of the San Luis Valley, we may not have access to a fully staffed and equipped medical facility; therefore, we need to make sure that someone on each work crew has the training to render basic first aid and CPR.

Here in the San Luis Valley, we have at least two organizations that can train our employees in basic first aid and CPR.

**1. American Red Cross** – Alamosa, CO – contact persons: Adeline Lee or Lisa Wertz – (719) 587 3314. Cost: \$55.00/person. 8 hour course covering Basic First Aid, CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Maximum number in class per one instructor – 10. The American Red Cross can come to your location if special arrangements are made.

**2. Valley Snorkel & Scuba, LLC.** – contact persons: Kurt Cary (719) 580 0042 or Dennis Gardner (719) 480 9555. Cost: HBA members only \$65.00/person. 8 hour course covering Emergency First Response Primary Care, CPR, AED, and Emergency Oxygen Use. Maximum number in class per one instructor – 12. Valley Snorkel & Scuba, LLC can come to your location if special arrangements are made.