

*This is a letter to the editor that you can use to promote your department during Building Safety Week in local newspapers. Visit [www.buildingsafetyweek.com](http://www.buildingsafetyweek.com) to download the letter, fill-in the blanks, copy and mail to your local newspaper editorial page editor in early April. Don't forget to list any special events you will be holding in conjunction with Building Safety Week.*

Dear Editor:

The ***(name of jurisdiction and department)*** is joining with building departments across America to celebrate Building Safety Week from May 6 through 12. First observed in 1980, Building Safety Week seeks to raise public awareness of building safety by promoting the use, enforcement, and understanding of building safety and fire prevention codes to protect lives and property. "Building Smarter...for Disasters and Everyday Life" is the theme of Building Safety Week 2007.

We often say that people don't pay attention to building safety issues until a disaster occurs. But building and fire codes affect you and your loved ones every day. Inspectors, plan reviewers, and others in the ***(name of jurisdiction and department)*** work to ensure that the structures you and your families live, work, attend school, worship, and play in are safe. By doing our jobs each day, we provide the first line of defense from building disasters. We are silent defenders who are seldom seen but work daily to ensure safety in the built environment.

***(Insert accomplishments of your building department in the past year. Include statistical information such as the number of inspections performed, the number of permits issued, etc. You may also want to remind citizens how they can obtain permits and for what projects permits are required.)***

Local activities during Building Safety Week include ***(insert any activities you have planned including date, time and location)***. I encourage the public to get involved in these activities to learn more about the work of the ***(name of jurisdiction and department)***. Together we can learn to build smarter, for disasters and everyday life.

The ***(name of jurisdiction and department)*** is a member of the International Code Council, an association that develops the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nation. Building Safety Week is sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation, an organization dedicated to changing the devastating effects of natural disasters and other building tragedies at home and around the world.

***Your Name***

***Your Title***

***Your Office Phone Number***