



## Code Update Newsletter

The Public Works and Engineering Department  
Planning and Development Services Division

"Providing information pertaining to the Codes and how they affect you"

# NEW INTERPRETATION RELATING TO HORIZONTAL EXITS AND FIREWALLS

Code Word 2006-60A interpretation for fire walls and horizontal exits was originally issued on March 22, 2013 as Code Word 2006-60 but was not as widely publicized as hoped. Due to the low level of public distribution and to ensure the rules have been clearly and fairly communicated throughout the development community, it has been updated to extend and clarify the timelines for compliance.

Effective June 30, 2013 any construction plans submitted for review as part of a building permit application will be reviewed to the appropriate published interpretation which has been clarified in Code Word 2006-60A.

In the interim time period projects that are not in compliance, but were designed according to past practice, will be allowed to use an equivalency by upgrading the sprinkler system from Standard NFPA 13-R to Standard NFPA 13 within the exit pathway between a non-code compliant horizontal exit to a vertical stair enclosure in the adjacent building.

To download a copy of this interpretation, please click [here](#). For a copy of the entire Code Word publication, please visit the [Code Development page](#).

For further information or questions, you may contact [Earl.Greer@houstontx.gov](mailto:Earl.Greer@houstontx.gov) or [Sheila.Blake@houstontx.gov](mailto:Sheila.Blake@houstontx.gov).

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### CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

#### PLAN REVIEW

Commercial - (832) 394-8810  
One-Stop - (832) 394-8820 (*Commercial Remodels and Residential*)

#### INSPECTIONS

Building - (832) 394-8840  
Mechanical - (832) 394-8850  
Electrical - (832) 394-8860  
Plumbing - (832) 394-8870  
Occupancy/Life Safety - (832) 394-8880  
Sign Administration - (832) 394-8890

#### PERMIT OFFICE

General - (832) 394-8899  
Dacoma Office - (713) 686-6224  
Kingwood Office - (281) 361-9580  
Utility Releases - (832) 394-8847

#### OTHER INFORMATION

Customer Assistance & Code Development Office - (832) 394-9494  
Automated Inspection Request Line - (713) 222-9922  
Other City Departments - Dial 311

#### **For Additional Permit Information:**

You may obtain information about permits by visiting our website at [www.houstonpermits.com](http://www.houstonpermits.com). You will then be linked to our database of sold permits. If you have questions about any of these permits, please contact our Code Enforcement Group at (832) 394-9494.

#### **To Reach Other City of Houston Departments:**

<http://www.houstontx.gov> or dial 311

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