

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT

A Few Noteworthy Facts about the Department of Building and Safety:

- Provides services to Los Angeles City residents through 16 different offices located throughout the City
- Serves over 500,000 walk-in customers annually
- Responds to over 822,000 customer phone calls annually
- Issues over 139,000 permits with a total valuation of over \$5.3 billion annually
- Conducts over 900,000 inspections annually
- Issues over 16,900 trade licenses for 16 different occupations annually
- Provides information for over 80,000 addresses annually
- Responds to over 43,000 Code Enforcement service requests annually
- Brings back over 36,000 properties to compliance annually
- Abate over 640 nuisance and abandoned buildings annually
- Reviews and approves plans for over 50,000 projects annually

The Responsibilities of the Department of Building and Safety Are Assigned to Four Bureaus:

The Engineering Bureau is primarily responsible for the plan checking, report approval, and permit issuance related to building projects within privately owned property in the City of Los Angeles. In the course of carrying out these responsibilities, the Engineering Bureau enforces the structural, building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, grading and zoning regulations of the City. In addition, the Engineering Bureau is responsible for reviewing applications for building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical product approvals through its Electrical and Mechanical Test Laboratories.

The Inspection Bureau is responsible for inspection of all construction activities for new and existing buildings, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, elevator and pressure vessel systems, the enforcement of applicable State and local laws relating to existing buildings and property, and the administration of various special programs mandated by the City Council.

The Code Enforcement Bureau was created as a part of a reorganization of code enforcement functions in 1999. This Bureau is responsible for the enforcement of Municipal Code requirements for all existing buildings in the City of Los Angeles, except rental multi-family dwellings. The Bureau handles complaints, citations, processing of vacant and nuisance buildings for repair or demolition, Signs, Vehicle Establishment Inspection Program and Proactive Code Enforcement Program among others.

The Resource Management Bureau is responsible for the direction and coordination of administrative and financial projects, systems development, training and acts as the emergency disaster coordinator for all Department operations.

The Board of Building and Safety Commissioners:

The Board of Building and Safety Commissioners is a five-member board of citizens residing in the City and appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The Commission has the authority to hear and act upon appeals from determinations, orders, or actions of the Department or the Superintendent of Building, pertaining to enforcement of the codes under the jurisdiction of the Department. In addition, the Commission conducts public hearings, as needed, regarding procedures, new codes and various functions of the Department. Finally, the Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Department and the Superintendent of Building.