

## **Building Safety Week 2007**

Safe and proper construction of buildings is rarely on your mind when you enter a home or building. Fortunately, the staff of the Lower Providence Township Community Development Department thinks about building safety and fire prevention every day. To help raise citizen awareness of building safety, the Township Board of Supervisors officially proclaimed May 6 through 12 as "Building Safety Week," becoming the first municipality in Pennsylvania to do so.

During this week, which is observed worldwide, the Township will promote 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.

"The importance of regulating and enforcing building codes is often overlooked until a catastrophic tragedy occurs," said Michael Siegel, Township Community Development Director. "By inspecting buildings during and after construction, we help to ensure that buildings in the community are safe."

Codes address all aspects of construction including structural integrity, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems, energy efficiency, and property maintenance. Effective code enforcement requires the support of homeowners, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry. "Building Safety Week" recognizes the important professionals who make sure the buildings in our community are safe.

"Public safety is our number one concern," said Siegel. "Building and fire officials are here to help residents understand building safety issues. He stressed that in this age of do-it-yourselfers it is extremely important for homeowners to work with the Township to make sure their residences fully comply with building safety codes."

The Code Enforcements page on the Township website provides comprehensive codes and permit information and helpful links. In addition, the Community Development staff is available to answer residents' questions.

Building Safety Week, first observed in 1980, is sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation, an organization dedicated to changing the devastating effects of natural disasters and other building tragedies. Lower Providence Township is an active member of the International Code Council, a membership organization dedicated to building safety and fire prevention. The International Code Council develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools.