



PLUMAS COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT

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Will I be able to rebuild, stronger?

The Beckwourth Complex and the Dixie Fire destroyed almost everything in its path. Locals, some of who are 4th and 5th generations in Plumas County, lost their childhood homes and irreplaceable family mementos. As we rebuild our community and our homes, it's important to take the right steps for ensuring the community's safety and longevity and keep in mind the future of Plumas County for generations to come.

We are Plumas Strong, but I know there was doubt in some minds. We had just lost everything and some feared they would never be able to rebuild. Then there was hope, the fires brought in government funding. It appears Plumas County has a chance to rebuild and become the great rural area we have grown to love. As we rebuild, I ask you, please do not take shortcuts, it is important to do it right the first time.

Why should I get a building permit?

- Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by the community, the value of your investment could be reduced.
- Insurance companies may not insure you or if they do, they may have a clause that will void any claims you may feel you are entitled to after an incident, such as a fire or even an electrical or plumbing issue.
- If for any reason you end up selling your home, it is required to disclose any improvement or repairs made and if permits and inspections were obtained.
- New buyers may not be able to get financing without proof of a final inspection on your home.
- If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition or do costly repairs.
- By filing your permit with the Building Department, the future project is checked following the guideline to reduce potential hazards of unsafe construction and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, and your friends or future owners.
- If work has already been done, without ever obtaining a permit, you may think you are grandfathered in, wrong! Laws are changing all the time. You are only grandfathered in if the work was done by the standards set forth during the time the work was done. If work was done illegally; to correct the unpermitted work, you may be required to bring the structure up to the current code.
- You may love Plumas County so much, that you may never want to sell your place and move. However, your family may need to sell and may not be able to have a good return on your investment or may be required to tear down the home they grew up in because of your negligence. Or in the unfortunate event that another wildfire comes through Plumas County again, they could be left without insurance to cover the cost of rebuilding the home.

By filing for a permit and having your plans double-checked, insures your house is up to date on new safety regulations. These regulations are put in place for our safety and the safety of others. Violating these laws could pose steep penalties up to thousands of dollars per day that the structure remains in violation or make you liable for any injuries that may have occurred due to your negligence.

Plumas County is a community and we work together to help each other in times of distress. We have the opportunity to build back better and be more resilient for our future and our kids' future. Please take the step necessary to do it right.

Jennifer Langston
Chief Code Enforcement Officer
County of Plumas