



# City of Gilroy

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## For Immediate Release

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### **Building Safety Month – Commemorating a 30-Year Legacy of Leadership**

When you enter a house or building, most likely you're not thinking about whether it is properly constructed and safe. Fortunately, your local safety experts think about building safety and fire prevention every day. To help raise awareness of building safety, the City of Gilroy *is* celebrating *Building Safety Month* during May. The theme is "Building Safety: *Commemorating a 30-year Legacy of Leadership.*" and will highlight four areas during the month: *Energy and Green Building; Disaster Safety and Mitigation; Fire Safety and Awareness; and Backyard Safety.* Across the nation, leaders and communities will promote the use and understanding of these topics to protect lives and property.

"The important work we do is often overlooked until a catastrophic tragedy occurs," said Kristi Abrams, Development Center Manager / Building Official. "When building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings during and after construction, we help to ensure that the places where you live, learn, work, worship and play are safe."

Building safety and fire prevention codes address all aspects of construction, such as structural soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

"Public safety is our number one concern," said Abrams, "During Building Safety Month and all year long, building safety and fire prevention officials are here to help protect you and the community."

*more follows*

First observed in 1980 as Building Safety Week, *Building Safety Month* is sponsored by the International Code Council, an organization dedicated to building life safety, fire prevention, energy efficiency and sustainable and green design, The International Code Council develops the International Codes which form the basis of the California Building Codes. The California Building Codes are used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction design of federal buildings around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States.

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