



October 23, 2007

TO: All DPLU Building Division Staff

FROM: Senior Structural Engineer

FIRE DAMAGE STRUCTURE FOUNDATIONS

Several inquiries have been made about the regulations for rebuilding homes destroyed in the Firestorm 2007 that began on October 21, 2007. This memorandum addresses questions about existing foundation systems.

The foundation systems and the underslab utilities were subject to extreme heating and rapid cooling in a very short period of time. The condition of those systems is unknown and cannot be determined by a visual observation. Applicants who wish to use the existing foundation systems must have a "suitability analysis" of the existing foundation performed by a registered civil or structural engineer. This analysis will state that the engineer has visited the site and investigated the condition of the existing building elements. It shall also state whether the remaining foundation is suitable for the support of the new structure, and that all underslab utility systems (such as drain, waste, vent, water, mechanical, electrical, etc.) are suitable for continued use. Electrical conduits may remain but all electrical conductors must be replaced.

Applicants who choose to demolish the slab/foundation system will need to provide a compaction report to address re-compaction of the lot after slab removal if soil was disturbed to a depth greater than 12 inches. A licensed geotechnical or civil engineer must prepare the compaction report.

Please refer all questions about this policy to me at 858-495-5082.

Sincerely,

CLAY WESTLING, Senior Structural Engineer
Building Division