



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS

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Date: June 4, 2015

To: All Solar Panel Installation Contractors

From: Donald L. Mock, P.E., Plan Review Chief 

Subject: Solar Panel Locations for Smoke Ventilation Operations

Beginning June 9, 2015, all solar panel and photovoltaic installations must comply with this memo regarding panel locations. All panels and modules installed on dwellings shall be located at least 3 feet below the roof ridge. This requirement is for ventilation purposes and firefighter safety. Access and pathways, up the side of the roof, will not be required unless both sides of roof are covered with solar panels. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 410-313-3948.

Cc: Robert J. Frances, P.E., Director DILP
Sean Kelly, Inspection and Enforcement Chief DILP
Bruce Forejt, Chief Building Inspector DILP
Assistant Chief Daniel Merson, Fire and Rescue
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