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American Samoa Government
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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 03-1992

**EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING BUILDING STANDARDS
FOR RECOVERY FROM HURRICANE VAL DISASTER**

WHEREAS, on December 6 through 10, 1991, the islands of the Territory of American Samoa sustained extensive and widespread damage to real and personal property as a result of Hurricane Val; and

WHEREAS, a state of disaster emergency was declared in the Territory on December 9, 1991, by then Acting Governor Ace A. Tago, under authority vested by the constitution and the laws of the American Samoa Government; and

WHEREAS, President George Bush, on December 13, 1991, declared a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for the Territory of American Samoa due to damages resulting from Hurricane Val; and

WHEREAS, the people of American Samoa are beginning to repair and rebuild the damages to their homes and property caused by Hurricane Val; and

WHEREAS, the Territory of American Samoa has been devastated by three hurricanes in the last five years since January 1987, each causing extensive damage to residential structures, among other things; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to promote and encourage standards for the erection, repair or other construction of structures which will protect against and mitigate danger, damage, or loss from, and to implement preventative and preparedness measures designed to eliminate or reduce the impact of, similar or other disaster;

NOW THEREFORE, I, PETER TALI COLEMAN, Governor of American Samoa, pursuant to the authority granted under Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and Sections 4.0111 and 26.0105 (b) and (g) of the American Samoa Code Annotated, do hereby direct that the following matters take effect:

1. The Uniform Building Code, 1988 Edition, and the Uniform Building Code Standards, 1988 Edition, regulating the erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, moving, removal, demolition, conversion, occupancy, equipment, use, height, area and maintenance of all buildings or structures, is hereby adopted in the Territory of American Samoa. Accordingly, the 1964 Edition of the Uniform Building Code, Short Form, Volume 1, adopted by Section 26.1001 of the American Samoa Code Annotated, is hereby suspended.

2. The Director of Public Works is hereby appointed and designated as the "building official", responsible for the administration and enforcement of the said Uniform Building Code and Uniform Building Code Standards, and whose authority and duties are more specifically set forth therein. In his capacity as the building official, the Director of Public Works shall have the authority, in accordance with Section 106 of the said Uniform Building Code, to modify provisions of the said code and standards in cases that present practical difficulties given the unique circumstances in the Territory of American Samoa. The building permit fees set forth in A.S.C.A. § 26.1001(b) shall remain in effect and supersede the permit fees set out in the said Uniform Building Code.

3. The appointment and qualifications of the members of the Board of Appeals, set forth in Section 204(a) of the said Uniform Building Code, shall be determined by the Governor.

4. The minimum basic wind speed of 130 miles per hour and wind pressure at 44 pounds per square foot for a standard height of 30 feet (Table No. 23-F), as set forth in Section 2311 of the said Uniform Building Code, is hereby adopted.

The foregoing wind speed and wind pressure standards for one story, wood frame, residential structures can be met if all structural connections are constructed in accordance with the following plans and specifications available at the Architect and Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works:

- a. "Construction Details For Building Strong Roofs and Walls"; or
- b. plans and specifications entitled "Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hurricane 'Ofa' Emergency Housing".

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately, and shall continue in effect until such time that legislation is passed that updates the building standards in American Samoa and addresses the need to strengthen residential structures and government facilities against cyclone, earthquake or similar disasters.

Dated this 8th day of January 1992 at Utulei, American Samoa.


PETER TALI COLEMAN
GOVERNOR

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