

# FIRE PROTECTION of RESIDENTIAL FLOORS

Courtesy of the City of Manhattan Code Services Office

## International Residential Code Section R501.3

**Effective September 1, 2014**, International Residential Code Section R501.3, Fire Protection of Floors will go into effect. Any permit for a one or two family dwelling or a townhouse applied for on or after this date will be subject to this requirement.

All floor assemblies are to be covered on the underside with a minimum of 1/2" sheetrock, 5/8" wood structural panel or equivalent. There are several exceptions to covering the underside of the floors. Those are as follows:

- Use of regular dimension lumber of 2"x10" or greater for the floor joists
- Use of other floor joists that are manufactured with a fire resistant factory applied coating and approved by the Code Office
- Floor assemblies that are protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system
- Floor assemblies located over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel fired equipment
- Portions of floor assemblies may be unprotected when they do not exceed 80 square feet aggregate and are fire blocked along the perimeter.

We would be glad to answer any specific questions on this requirement. Please contact the Code Office at 785-587-4506 or you are welcome to stop at our office located at 2000 Denison Avenue.

