

## ***A RAINBOW AT THE END OF THE STORM***

THE RECENT HISTORIC level of hurricanes in Florida have awakened the legislature of that state. The panhandle areas have traditionally been less strict on hurricanes in their building code regulations. Now, since Hurricane Charley and others, the state is taking another look at their building codes. Until recently, experts had assumed that hurricanes were more prevalent in the southeastern portion of the state and therefore ignored the remaining options. What a mistake that proved to be!



THE CATEGORY OF hurricanes is measured using the Safir-Simpson Scale: **Category 1**: Winds 74-95 mph; **Category 2**: Winds 96-110 mph; **Category 3**: Winds 111-130 mph; **Category 4**: Winds 131-155 mph; **Category 5**: Winds 155 mph. This year three hurricanes have reached Category 5 intensities.

INSURED LOSSES FROM four of the Florida hurricanes have reached an estimated \$22 billion. This is the worst hurricane season based on insurance losses in history. Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was \$20.5 billion. The *Florida Building Code* was adopted by the Legislature in 2000 and took effect in 2002, prompted by aftermath of that event.

BEFORE THIS hurricane season, the state was moving towards adopting the *International Building Code*. One expert claims that the *IBC* has one major flaw - it would permit about a quarter of the state to approve less hurricane-resistant construction than the existing building code now in force. The state code commission will most likely keep their current wind-speed requirements when the *IBC* is adopted. Another requirement will be for more underground utilities and stricter tie-down requirements for manufactured homes. These homes are prevalent in the state due to the numerous retirement communities and seniors retiring on fixed incomes.

➤ **IT'S AMAZING HOW a tragedy or natural disaster can get the attention of politicians.**

ON THE ROAD - - - 

I WILL BE in Bloomington, IL on October 19th. for the **Assoc. of Licensed Architects** presenting my one-day seminar "Principles of the International Building Code 2000-2003". Then it's on to Chicago for a presentation of "Court Decisions and Liability in Building Codes" at the annual convention of the **Society of Registered Architects** on October 21st.



**2003 INTERNATIONAL CODES INTERPRETATIONS** manual is now available from our office. Published by the ICC, it has the formal interps of all the *International Codes*. To get your copy, send \$35.00 to **Kelly P. Reynolds, P. O. Box 31820, Phoenix, AZ 85046-1820**. Or fax your VISA/ Mastercard number and expiration date to our secure

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Kelly P. Reynolds

*"As A Man Speaks . . . So Is He."*