
	BUILDING DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADMINISTRATIVE/GENERAL	Effective Date: November 16, 2006
		Supersedes Policy Dated: N/A
	1.12 Retaining Wall Safety Devices	Issued by: Eric M. Mays, P.E. Building Official 

This policy is being issued in accordance with the Prince William County Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM), Section 710.06 D. Retaining Wall Safety Devices.

Safety devices are required at the top of the retaining wall or retaining wall system (i.e. tiered retaining walls) when:

1. The difference in grade level on either side of the wall is in excess of 4 feet; and
2. The retaining wall or retaining wall system is located closer than 2 feet to a walk, path, residential yard, public common area, parking lot or driveway.

The retaining wall safety device shall be designed and constructed structurally in accordance with the provisions of the International Building Code for guards (i.e. strength, opening limitations and height of the guard).

(NOTE: If the permit applicant wants to propose an equivalent alternative method of compliance, a written request is to be submitted to the Building Official for review.)