NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

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Building Official

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Building Code - Design Criteria

Applicable Codes:	2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (http://www.iccsafe.org) 2021 International Code Series with Virginia Amendments 2020 NFPA 70 – National Electric Code
Design Wind Speed:	120 miles per hour
Wind Exposures:	B in towns, C elsewhere
Ground Snow Load:	10 pounds per square foot
Frost Line:	12 inches below final grade to bottom of the footing
Climate Zone:	Zone 4
Earthquake/Seismic Zone:	A
VA Architect/Engineer Seals Required:	When required by the Code of Virginia Section 54.1 – 402; for construction within 1500 feet of tidal salt water; for structures over 3 stories in height; for unusual construction.

Local Amendment to USBC – Soils Policy: The State of Virginia has identified soils in the Northampton County area as potential shrink-swell soils. All footings must have a minimum of 2 runs of #4 or larger re-bar placed in the lower half of the footing. Footings wider than 16 inches must have one run of re-bar for every 8 inches (or portion thereof) of footing width. Persons wishing to place footings without re-bar must submit a report from a Virginia licensed soils engineer, stating that the footings are adequate to support the structure without re-bar, and that the shrink-swell soils will not adversely affect the structure.