



**DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL &
PROFESSIONAL LICENSES**

Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors News Bulletin

**Spring/Summer
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72nd Edition

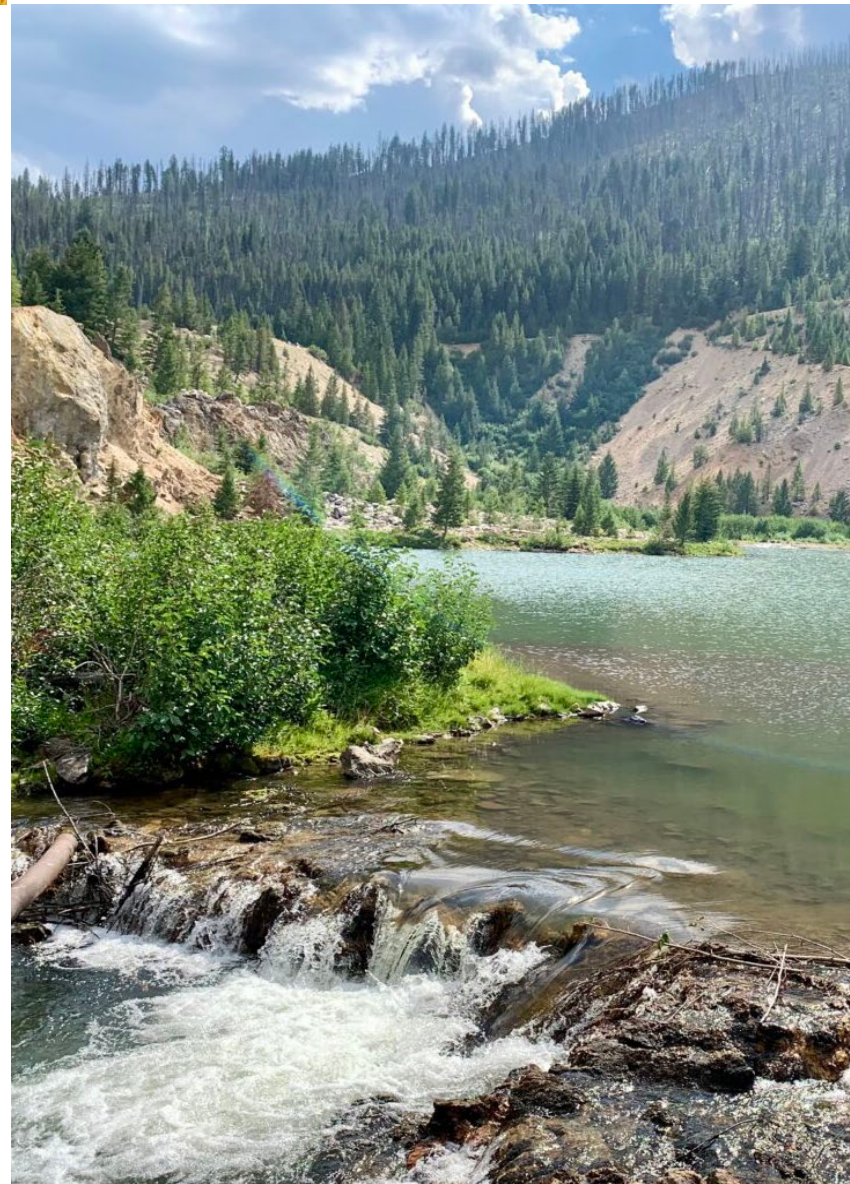


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A Message from Your Executive Officer



Dear Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors,

As we move through the summer months, I want to take a moment to recognize the continued dedication of Idaho's professional engineers and professional land surveyors. The work you do every day helps shape and strengthen our communities across the state, and it is an honor to support the profession through the work of the Division.

This year, Idaho continues to have a strong presence at the national level through participation with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Several Board members, along with myself, are actively serving on various NCEES committees, ensuring Idaho has a voice in important national conversations surrounding licensure, mobility, examination development, and the future of the professions. This involvement allows us to collaborate with regulatory leaders from across the country while bringing valuable insight and perspective back to Idaho.

The 2026 legislative session also brought several pieces of legislation that impact the engineering and land surveying professions. Throughout this newsletter, you will find additional information regarding these updates and what they may mean for licensees moving forward. As laws, technologies, and industry practices continue to evolve, the Board remains committed to ensuring the protection of the public while supporting a modern and effective regulatory environment.

Thank you for the important role you play in protecting public health, safety, and welfare. I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and find the information helpful as we move through the year.

Warm regards,
Jessica Spoja



Legislative Session Update

The 2026 Idaho Legislative Session brought several statutory changes impacting occupational licensing, regulatory processes, and the engineering and land surveying professions. Below are some of the key legislative updates of interest to licensees.

Surveyor Jurisprudence Examination

House Bill 512 authorizes the Board to determine and administer an open-book jurisprudence examination for land surveyor licensure applicants. The legislation also exempts the Board from the jurisprudence examination provisions contained within the Occupational Licensing Reform Act. With this change, comity and initial licensure applicants will be tested on Idaho Statutes and Rules prior to issuance of a license. The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

Land Surveyor Right of Entry Clarified

Senate Bill 1391 clarifies that licensed land surveyors may enter property while performing professional duties notwithstanding the language contained in Senate Bill 1326, which generally restricted governmental entry onto private property without consent, a warrant, or exigent circumstances. This legislation helps preserve the ability of professional land surveyors to perform necessary surveying activities essential to boundary determination, infrastructure development, and public safety.

Inspection and Permitting Timelines

House Bill 585 establishes timelines related to inspections requested by permit holders. If inspections are not completed within specified statutory timeframes, permit holders may utilize qualified third-party inspectors. The legislation also requires inspection results to be returned within established deadlines. Third-party inspectors must comply with all applicable practice act requirements and professional standards. This legislation may impact engineering professionals involved in construction administration, inspections, permitting, and development projects throughout Idaho.

Legislative Session Update



Building Code and School Construction Updates

Several additional bills passed during the session may be of interest to engineers and design professionals:

- House Bill 706 amends the Idaho Building Code Act to allow local governments to authorize certain apartment buildings utilizing a single interior exit stairway configuration.
- House Bill 721 removes the requirement that school districts obtain plan approval before advertising for bids and establishes timelines for permitting authorities to complete initial plan reviews for public school buildings.

Looking Ahead

The Division will continue monitoring legislative developments and implementing statutory changes where necessary. Licensees are encouraged to remain informed regarding updates to laws, rules, and professional standards that may impact practice within Idaho.

Additionally, the Idaho Society of Professional Land Surveyors has generously volunteered to assume management and maintenance of the Idaho Law Book resource, which had previously been maintained by DOPL staff. Moving forward, this transition allows the resource to be overseen by a professional association directly connected to the practice of land surveying, helping ensure the information remains practical, current, and responsive to the profession's needs.

Additional information regarding Board laws and rules can be found on the Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors [webpage](#).

Online Services Update

The Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) continues to enhance and improve online services to better serve applicants, licensees, and the public.

One recent update includes modifications to the public license search to ensure compliance with Idaho Code 54-1211. The public search now displays all licensee names and last known addresses as required by statute.

In addition to public search enhancements, work is currently underway to modernize portions of the comity application process. The Division is developing an electronic version of the course comparison form used for comity applicants. Transitioning this process into OASIS will help streamline application review, improve efficiency, and reduce manual paperwork for both applicants and staff.

The Board is also participating in ongoing discussions with National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) regarding future system integration opportunities. DOPL is currently on an interest list for a potential key process integration (KPI) between DOPL online services (OASIS) and NCEES records. If implemented, this integration would allow information contained within an applicant's NCEES Record to transfer directly into OASIS, helping reduce duplicate data entry and creating a more seamless application experience for comity applicants.

As technology and licensing processes continue to evolve, the Board remains committed to identifying opportunities that improve efficiency while maintaining accurate records and strong public protection standards.

Board Inquiries



The Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors regularly receives questions from licensees seeking guidance on specific practice situations or requesting interpretations of Idaho law and rule. While staff are always happy to assist with general licensing and procedural questions, the Board cannot provide legal advice or individualized direction on how a licensee should practice engineering or land surveying in a particular situation.

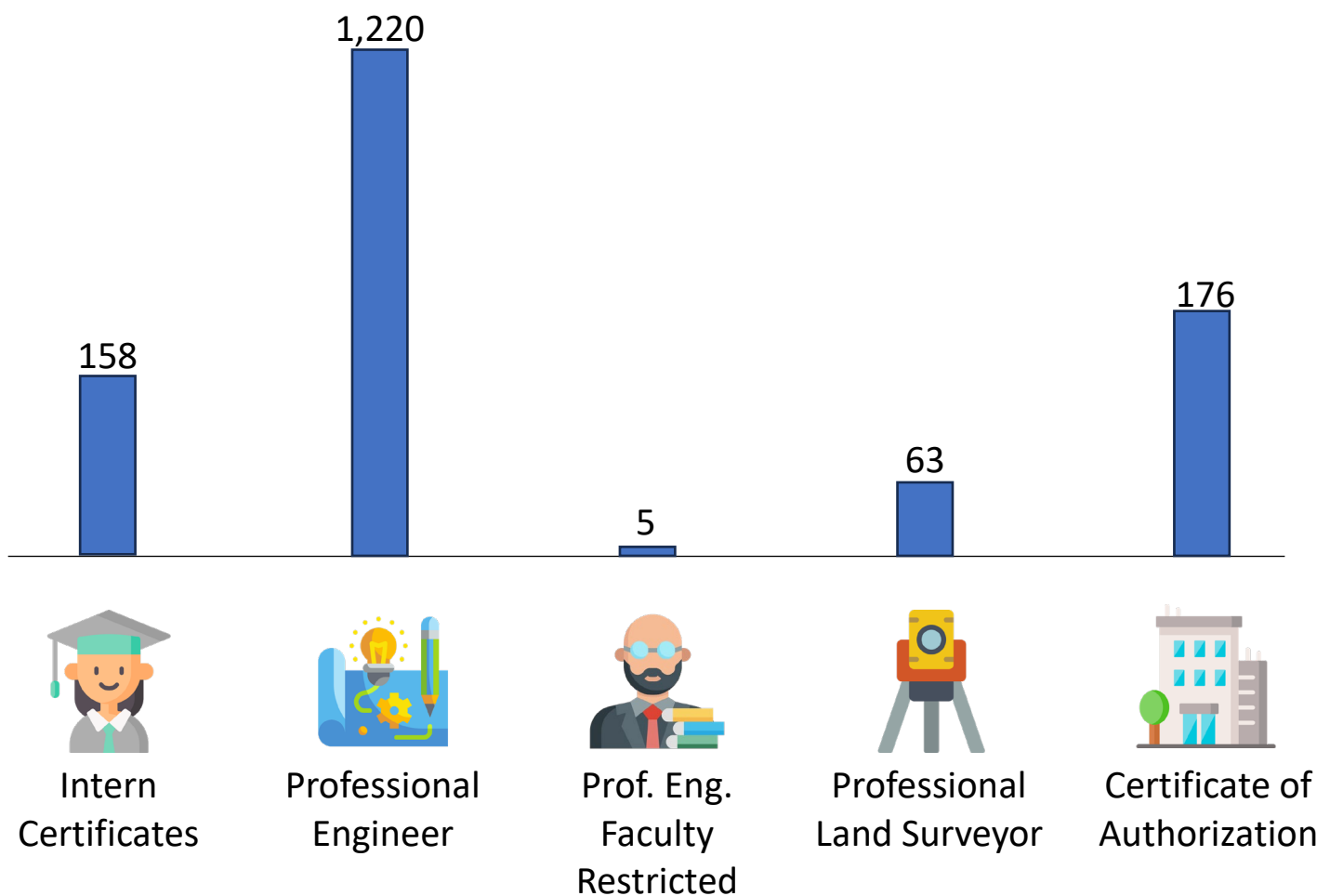
Many of these requests involve complex or fact-specific circumstances where the Board may not have all relevant information necessary to make a fully informed determination. Providing informal interpretations in these situations could create unintended liability concerns for both the Board and the licensee.

If a licensee believes a formal interpretation or Board opinion regarding a specific section of law or rule is necessary, the appropriate process is to submit a request for a Declaratory Statement. A Declaratory Statement allows the Board to formally review the matter through the proper legal and administrative process before issuing an official interpretation or position. For those wanting to submit a request, a pleading should be submitted to the board.

FY26 Licensing Data

New Licenses Issued

July 1, 2025 – May 26, 2026



Continuing Education Audits & Guidance

Continuing education audits are currently being conducted on licensees who renew late. In addition, the Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors is working on enhancements within the OASIS licensing system that will allow staff to begin monthly audits of approximately 10% of licensees' continuing education records. An announcement regarding the official start date will be provided in the future.

To assist licensees with compliance, a new continuing education guidance document is now available on the [Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors webpage](#).

New Guidance Documents

Over the past year, the Board has diligently reviewed its guidance documents to ensure they provide general professional guidance rather than addressing specific fact patterns or individual circumstances. Because the Board's role is not to provide legal advice or guidance on particular situations, content that was overly specific has been removed from these documents.

The following updated guidance documents are available on the [Division's Statutes, Rules, and Guidance webpage](#):

- Ethics and Professional Practice Guidance Document
- Professional Engineering Guidance Document
- Professional Land Surveying Guidance Document

Additionally, the Board has adopted an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Position Statement, which is also available on the same webpage. Licensees are encouraged to review these resources to stay informed of current Board guidance and expectations.





Freelance Websites

Over the last several years, freelance marketplace websites have become increasingly common and accessible. Online platforms allow individuals to purchase drafting services, plans, maps, and other technical documents for relatively small amounts of money, often with little verification regarding the qualifications or location of the individual performing the work.

Unfortunately, the Board continues to see instances where engineering or surveying documents obtained through these platforms contain fraudulent or unauthorized professional seals and signatures. In some cases, individuals offering these services use pre-made or copied plans and apply a stolen or altered professional stamp to make the documents appear legitimate.

Consumers should understand that the use of a professional engineer's or professional land surveyor's seal represents far more than a graphic placed on a document. A professional seal signifies that the licensee took responsible charge of the work and is accountable for the accuracy, safety, and integrity of the final product.

One of the challenges in addressing these situations is that many of the individuals creating or selling fraudulent documents are located outside of Idaho, and often outside of the United States. This significantly limits the Board's jurisdiction and ability to investigate or pursue enforcement action against those responsible. Additionally, online marketplace platforms may not remove accounts or listings even after concerns are identified.

The Board encourages consumers, contractors, and property owners to exercise caution when obtaining engineering or surveying services online. Before relying on plans or documents, individuals should verify that:

- the engineer or surveyor is properly licensed in Idaho;
- the seal and signature belong to the individual who performed or supervised the work; and
- the license is active and in good standing.

License status can be verified through the public license search available on the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses website. Protecting the public remains the Board's highest priority, and awareness is an important part of preventing fraudulent practice within the professions.



In Memoriam

Charles E. Brockway
1936-2025



With sadness Brockway Engineering announces the passing of its founder, Dr. Charles E. Brockway. Dr. Brockway studied at the University of Idaho, the California Institute of Technology, and the University of Utah, and left a profound mark not only on the field of water resources engineering in Idaho, but on those around him. He brought his intellect to bear on the science of water resources as a research professor at the U of I and as a practicing civil engineer throughout the State. But all who knew him personally and professionally were graced by his charm, humility, integrity, and unflappability. We fortunate ones who could call him a mentor were blessed by his depth of knowledge and willingness to freely give of it.

We would like to thank Chuck – my Dad – for giving so much of himself. This man, born in Ketchum in a tiny house on Main Street, became the best engineer I’ve ever known, and more importantly (to him and to me), a Godly father and selfless family man, who cared to the end more about the well-being of others than himself.

- Charles G. Brockway