

# ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL  
CODE COUNCIL®  
30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

May 2024 Building Safety Month

[Click here](#) to visit the ICC GR team website.

## **Requirements on federally funded housing minimizes costs for those with greatest energy burdens**

The [White House announced](#) the finalization of updated energy efficiency requirements for housing supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to require the [2021 International Energy Conservation Code](#) (IECC) for single family and low-rise (three stories and less) multi-family housing. ASHRAE 90.1-2019 will be required for remaining multi-family housing. HUD and USDA will accept the 2024 IECC, or future editions of the IECC that, pursuant to a U.S. Department of Energy's determination, meet or exceed the performance of the 2021 edition, as an alternative compliance path. HUD estimates that the updated standards will increase purchase costs by an additional \$430 to \$550 which would be recouped within one and a half years through energy cost savings. HUD determined that the 2021 IECC is 34.3 percent more efficient than the previously required 2009 edition and—after increased purchase costs are taken into account—would save households \$377 annually and \$15,071 over the span of a typical mortgage. [Read more here.](#)

## **Record-setting total of applications received in the latest round of FEMA's BRIC grants program**

In its latest annual [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) cycle, the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) received a record-setting 133 building code-specific applications, totaling \$52 million in federal cost share requested – the largest amount ever received by FEMA for building code projects. These outcomes followed FEMA's launch of its first Building Codes Plus Up program within BRIC, which allocated up to \$2 million per state and territory to support hazard-resistant code adoption and implementation. [Read more here.](#)

**SURVEY REQUEST:** With the BRIC FY 23 application cycle winding down, the Code Council is eager to get your feedback on how the Code Council was able to help and your experience with the application cycle. Please share your thoughts via our [member survey](#) to help us better support our members.

## **As severity and frequency in disasters escalate, hazard mitigation becomes the wisest financial option**

Disasters are increasing in severity and frequency due to an escalation of hazardous weather conditions and a changing climate. According to the [NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information](#), in 2023 the United States experienced a total of 28 [billion-dollar disasters](#) totaling [\\$93.7 billion in economic losses](#) and claiming 492 lives. Hazard mitigation is a defensive approach that reduces long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. Managing and mitigating the property and life safety risks associated with disasters can be challenging if you don't know where to start. Week 2 of the [International Code Council's Building Safety Month](#) campaign aims to provide you with the resources and knowledge you need to protect your homes and communities from disaster. [Read more here.](#)

## **Application period closes June 14 to be selected for the 2024 Building Safety Leadership Experience**

This enriching program offers members an exclusive opportunity to attend a series of Conference events where they will gain insights into Code Council governance and explore how membership fosters industry engagement, unlocks new opportunities and drives professional advancement. Participants will receive complimentary delegate registration and reimbursement for ground and air transportation plus lodging from October 19–24. The BSLE application period closes June 14. [Click Here](#) to apply.

## **2024 annual conference offers educational sessions, events, career resources and insightful speakers**

Registration is now open for the [International Code Council's 2024 Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings](#) (CAH). From October 20-31, industry professionals and stakeholders will meet in Long Beach, California, for educational sessions, networking events, career resources, insightful speakers and opportunities to volunteer in the local community. Check out the 2024 Annual Conference video [here](#). This year's conference will provide attendees with unparalleled educational opportunities designed to elevate their knowledge and expertise in the building safety industry.

Participation in events such as insight sessions, building tours and the annual business meeting provides the opportunity to earn [Continuing Education Units](#) (CEUs) to help maintain or advance progress toward Code Council certifications. The following CEUs are available:

- Building Tours (Sunday, Oct. 20) – Earn up to 7 hours or 0.7 CEUs
- Insight Sessions (Monday, Oct. 21) – Earn up to 3 hours or 0.3 CEUs
- Conference Education Program (Tuesday, Oct. 22) – Earn up to 6 hours or 0.6 CEUs
- Annual Business Meeting (Monday, Oct. 21) – 2 hours or 0.2 CEUs
- In-person participation or attendance at the code hearings can earn up to 1.0 CEUs

[Read more here.](#)

## It's May – and that means it's time to celebrate the 2024 Building Safety Month



The [2024 campaign theme is “Mission Possible”](#) and includes these special weekly themes:

### **Week 1: Understanding the Mission**

Includes an introduction of building safety, what Building Safety Month is, and how building safety affects us all.

### **Week 2: Preparing a Building Safety Plan**

Highlights available educational resources (water/fire, sustainability & resiliency/disaster preparedness), including downloadable brochures, for building safety tips and best practices at home and in your community.

### **Week 3: Learning from the Pros**

Shines a spotlight on building safety professionals, including what they do, how to work with them and how to become one yourself.

### **Week 4: Engaging Your Community**

Includes information on how to advocate for building safety in your community, including actionable tips on how to be a proponent of building safety and ways to get kids involved.

### **Week 5: Celebrating Success in Building Safety**

Highlighting individuals and communities who are making a difference in building safety (editorial spotlights), including sharing the current year's Building Safety Month celebrations and events.

### **ICC to give away building-themed LEGO sets to three lucky winners during Building Safety Month**

Do you have a building in your community with unique character and historical significance? To celebrate [Building Safety Month 2024](#), we'll be giving away three building-themed LEGO sets to three lucky winners. To enter, submit a 30-second video telling us a story about one of the oldest buildings in your community and what it means to you. The International Code Council will review all submissions and select the top three videos that best showcase the building AND your creativity. The winning videos will be announced during the week of May 27th on our social media pages and our Building Safety Journal. [Read more here.](#)

### **A focus for ICC's 2024 Building Safety Month campaign zeros in on tips to prevent residential fires**

The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) [2023 Home Structure Fires Report](#) found that more than one-quarter of reported fires occur in home environments. And, during a five-year period, there were an estimated 343,100 home structure fires per year, causing an annual average of 2,610 civilian deaths, 11,090 civilian injuries and \$7.6 billion in direct property damage. By taking preventative measures to protect your home, you can help minimize the risk of death, injury and property damage caused by a fire. The International Code Council's [2024 Building Safety Month campaign](#) focuses on how you can take the responsibility of building safety into your own hands. [Read more here.](#)

### **Fourth week of 2024 Building Safety Month teaches how citizens can advocate for building safety**

[Week 4](#) of the International Code Council's [Building Safety Month](#) teaches individuals how to advocate for building safety in their communities. By spreading the importance of adopting modern building codes and standards, you can contribute to preventing disasters such as structural collapse or fires and help mitigate the potential damage caused by events such as hurricanes or floods. To make a difference within your community, we outlined five steps you can take to help make sure the places where we live, work, play and learn are safe. [Read more here.](#)

### **ICC's inaugural Leadership Week in Orlando yielded successful networking and organizational ideas**

The International Code Council hosted its inaugural Leadership Week in Orlando in conjunction with the [Committee Action Hearings for Group A Codes](#), which took place April 7-16. "At the Code Council, we are committed to providing valuable resources and support to help propel our members' careers forward and foster a safer built environment globally," said Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. "Initiatives such as our Leadership Week provide an excellent chance for building safety professionals to enhance their industry expertise and connect with peers they might not typically meet." Attendees of ICC Leadership Week [enjoyed keynote speeches](#), industry-leading conversations, networking opportunities, sessions developed specifically for leaders in the building safety and construction professions and participating in an international building safety forum. The ICC Government Relations team presented a session on a new advocacy resource developed for chapters. Interested chapter leaders can get a copy by emailing [advocacy@iccsafe.org](mailto:advocacy@iccsafe.org). [Read more here.](#)

### **Newest ICC 300 Standard is now completed and referenced in the 2024 International Codes**

The 2023 edition of the ICC 300 Standard for Bleachers, Folding and Telescopic Seating and Grandstands has been completed and is now referenced in the 2024 International Codes® (I-Codes). ICC 300 was first issued in 2002 and reissued in 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2023. The standard addresses all aspects of tiered seating associated with bleachers, grandstands, and folding and telescopic seating. It is important to note that the ICC 300 standard addresses types of seating that are supported on dedicated structural systems, which in turn may sit on the ground or on a building floor system. Single seats or bench seats bolted down to a stepped floor are not considered a bleacher or grandstand. [Read more here.](#)

### ***GOT PULSE?* Children of Code Council staff explore building safety in their homes in Episode 50**

The [ICC Pulse Podcast](#) offers listeners the inside scoop on the International Code Council and the building safety industry. To celebrate [Building Safety Month](#), the ICC Pulse Podcast episode, *Building Safety as Told by Kids*, features children of Code Council staff exploring building safety in their homes. Podcast host Elizabeth McDonald gave five Code Council families an assignment to go through their homes with a checklist to take inventory of what building safety initiatives are achieved within their homes. She chatted with the kids afterward to see what they learned. Listen to the 50th ICC Pulse Podcast episode, *Building Safety as Told by Kids*, [here](#). Want to follow along? [Click here](#) to download the checklist used in the episode.



### **ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates**

#### **Code Council's inaugural World Water Awareness campaign explores water crisis and responsibilities**

This past March, the Code Council hosted its first annual [World Water Awareness campaign](#) to raise awareness about the water crisis and underscore our collective responsibility to address it through long-term, consistent water conservation efforts. The [World Water Awareness campaign](#) featured new research and information to facilitate the rapid implementation of modern building codes and standards while helping guide decision-makers in managing limited resources, both in the U.S. and globally. The resources included in-depth articles on water conservation initiatives and the advantages of the International Codes® (I-Codes), alongside podcast episodes that delve into plumbing solutions, water reuse and their vital role in preserving the world's water supply. More information is needed from experts to help aid government officials and business leaders take immediate action to implement sustainable solutions. Organizations can join this effort by signing a letter to policymakers highlighting the importance of water conservation resources. Click [here](#) to sign the letter. [Read more here.](#)

**Center for Hydrogen Safety to host safety training day in Las Vegas prior to its America's Conference**  
On May 20, the [Center for Hydrogen Safety](#) will be hosting an insightful [Hydrogen Safety Training Day in Las Vegas, NV](#). This training day is designed to provide attendees with the essential safety skills needed to navigate the dynamic hydrogen market. The courses will be eligible for International Code Council Continuing Education Units (CEUs). This training day will be held prior to the Center for Hydrogen Safety's Americas Conference from May 21-May 23. This conference brings together attendees from academia, industry and the government to discuss applied hydrogen safety topics and provide space for collaboration. [Read more here](#).



## ICC Evaluation Services updates

**Register here by June 21 to participate in the June 25 ICC-ES Evaluation Committee virtual meeting**

The interested public is invited to submit written comments on agenda items, or to attend the virtual Evaluation Committee hearing and present verbal comments on June 25. The following items will be presented for review at the virtual Evaluation Committee hearing:

- AC01 Mechanical Anchors in Cracked and Uncracked Masonry Elements
- AC232 Anchor Channels in Concrete Elements
- AC564 Internal Curing Concrete Admixture
- AC565 Natural Fiber Board Insulation
- AC566 Factory Bonded Humidity-dependent Vapor Retarder Membrane to Rigid Insulation Board
- AC567 Façade and Wall Cladding Composite Panels

Parties interested in joining the ICC-ES Evaluation Committee meeting on June 25 [must register for the WebEx Event before June 21](#). Registrations will be reviewed and approved by ICC-ES weekly, and those who are approved will receive a confirmation. Registrations will not be approved by after June 21. View the detailed agenda and all the latest information [here](#).



## ICC Community Development Solutions update

**Municipality's Connect Portal links up contractors and property owners to follow permits through process**

The Municipality Connect Portal is an important feature which allows citizens and contractors fast, secure online access to permitting activities.

- Secure online access to apply for permits, licenses, registration, or title search. Users can also request an inspection or file a complaint online.
- Follow the status of an application or permit throughout the review process.
- View upcoming inspection appointments, past inspection appointments, and/or results.

Municipality is the only ePermitting and Code Enforcement software from the International Code Council. To learn more, visit our [website](#) or join a [Municipality Overview Webinar](#)