

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®

April 2023

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Registration is open for training at ICC's Spring Interchange in Tampa, Florida, April 29-May 3

The 2023 Chapter Leadership Academy, meetings of ICC Membership Councils, a classy kickoff for 2023 Building Safety Month and opportunities to earn CEUs are what's on the agenda for [ICC's Spring Interchange](#) in Tampa, Florida, on April 29-May 3. Registration is still open for five tracks of training with a special joint training session on "Developing Codes, Standards, and Guides: What's Changing in 2024 and How You Can Get Involved." View the [training page](#) for all sessions, descriptions, and expert instructor bios. [Read more here](#).

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2023: Everything you need to know to be featured in April 4 webinar

Join us on April 4 at 2 pm ET for an [exclusive webinar](#) to prepare for a successful Building Safety Month celebration in your community. Our expert panel will host a discussion covering:

- Building Safety Month website and where to find member resources.
- Tips for hosting community events, social media campaigns, signing proclamations and more.
- Q&A session to address your questions.

[Register here](#). Download the [2023 Building Safety Month proclamation draft](#) to spotlight the annual event in May. **It Starts with You!** is this year's theme. The weekly themes for this year's campaign are:

- Week One (May 1–7): "Building Safety Starts at Home"
- Week Two (May 8–14): "Building Safety Professionals and You"
- Week Three (May 15–21): "Prepare Your Community"
- Week Four (May 22–28): "Advocate for Your Community"
- Week Five (May 29–31): "Solving Challenges Together"

More details about Building Safety Month are available on the [Building Safety Month webpage](#).

Building Safety Month sponsorships create opportunities to demonstrate loyalty to building safety

Sponsoring the 43rd annual Building Safety Month provides an unmatched, high-profile opportunity to demonstrate your organization's commitment to building safety. Sponsorship showcases each stakeholder's message and commitment to individuals and organizations in building code development, catastrophe management, emergency management, fire safety, green and energy construction, home improvement, home inspection, insurance, manufacturing, real estate, recreational safety, standards and testing, and more. Take a minute and check out available sponsorship packages. [Read more here](#).

CALL FOR COMMITTEE: Application deadline is June 1 for Code Council's 2024-2026 Cycle Committees

The Call for Committee was recently issued seeking volunteers for 2024-2026 Cycle Committees to help support the development of the 2027 International Codes (I-Codes). The application deadline is June 1 for the Code Development Committee (CDCs), Code Interpretation Committee (CICs) and the Code Correlation Committee (CCC). The 2024-2026 Code Development Schedule is available [here](#). Building codes and standards are developed to address building industry challenges as they relate to compliance with the I-Codes. Participating in these committees will help shape the development of these codes to ensure safe, affordable and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide. [Read more here](#).

New code development changes go into effect for the development of the 2027 International Codes

The International Codes (I-Codes) are a family of 15 coordinated, modern building safety codes used throughout the world. The code development process was recently revised, and the changes will take effect in 2024-2026 for the development of the 2027 I-Codes. It will move the process to an integrated and continuous three-year cycle. The 2024/2025/2026 Code Council code development schedule is [now available](#). Year one will include two Committee Action Hearings for Group A Codes; year two will include two Committee Action Hearings for Group B Codes; and year three will be the joint Public Comment Hearings and Online Governmental Consensus Vote for both Group A and B Codes. [Read more here](#).

One-on-one grant application development help from ICC is available as application deadlines near Code Council members and their jurisdictions throughout the United States have been working on grant applications that are available through federal agencies. Here's an update on key application deadlines:

- **April 28 – [Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund](#) – FEMA** - These low-interest loans will allow jurisdictions to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, foster greater community resilience and reduce disaster suffering. Funds are for adoption and implementation of codes implementation. Issues \$500 million over five years. This will last through Fiscal Year 2026. For the first year, FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is making \$50 million available to eligible entities to establish revolving loan funds.
- **April 28 – [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\)](#)** – Pre-Application Information Checklist Due - The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program is designed to assist states, local governments and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions and improve energy efficiency. EECBG can fund both adoption and implementation of energy codes. Issues \$430 million in clean energy and energy efficiency funding for eligible entities.

For applications and to read more, [click here](#). The Strategic Energy Code Implementation Team is available for grant application development assistance. To book a [one-on-one virtual meeting](#) with Stella Carr, ICC's Energy and Resilience Project Manager, [click here](#).

Hydrogen as a carbon-free fuel sought for heating, vehicles, electricity and other industry operations

More countries around the world are replacing natural gas used for heating, fueling vehicles, generating electricity and other industry operations with hydrogen. However, the range of hydrogen use will depend on various barriers to market adoption, including challenges in building storage and infrastructure. Hydrogen use today and speculation for its future are examined in this Building Safety Journal feature by Mark Fasel, Director, ICC PMG technical resources. [Read more here](#).

Participate in a brief survey of stakeholders to evaluate policies for climate change adaption

The Adaptation Working Group of the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction](#) (GlobalABC) is developing a report on the "Evaluation of Contribution to Climate Change Adaptation" of all stakeholders involved in the buildings and construction sector. The group is conducting a short survey of stakeholders. It will address the framework for conducting adaptation in policies, the systemic integration of adaptation in policies concerning the buildings and construction value chain, and what levers are specific to national and subnational governments when it comes to climate change adaptation. The results will help officials understand how national and local governments integrate adaptation to climate change into their own policies and project. The survey takes 15 to 20 minutes and consists of four questions. **The deadline to take the survey is April 14.** Respondents will be kept confidential. A feedback summary of results will be communicated to respondents in April and its findings will serve as the basis for the report to be published in November. [Read more here](#).

Pro Codes Act would protect copyright of codes and standards governments adopt to protect public

The *Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act*, or *Pro Codes Act* ([S.835](#)), was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate to recognize the vital role consensus-based codes and standards play in public safety. The act underscores the importance of ensuring standards development organizations (SDOs) like the International Code Council, who make their codes viewable for free online, retain the copyright for their respective codes that governments seek to utilize by incorporating them by reference into law. [Read more here](#).

Webinar series of 'Listening Sessions' set to start April 13 to promote community roles in resilience

A webinar series is available to community officials and the interested public, produced by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), to create guidance and resources for the whole community and help them understand their critical roles related to increasing national resilience. These resources will promote a common understanding of resilience, incorporate the relationship between stressors and shocks, address the critical roles of all stakeholders, and inspire fresh, forward-looking,

and people-centered planning approaches to move the needle on increasing community and national resilience. The first Listening Session is set for April 13. [Read more and register here.](#)

Updated Hazard Mitigation Guide reinforces agency's recognition of I-Codes® resilience benefits

On March 23, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) released its [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#), an updated comprehensive policy handbook to help govern mitigation grant programs. The guide includes an extensive list of eligible code activities that support the building safety community at large. The guide details resilient construction requirements and recommendations for mitigation projects connected to the International Codes® (I-Codes), including the International Building Code®, International Residential Code®, International Existing Building Code® and International Wildland-Urban Interface Code®. The new guide covers FEMA's [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) (HMGP), [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire](#) (HMGP Post Fire), [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC), and [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA) programs. Communities benefit significantly from these programs given their focus on the eligibility of code activities and the significant increases in their funding in recent years — BRIC from \$150 million per year to over \$2 billion per year since 2019 and HMGP from an average of \$390 million per year on average annually in the 1990s to roughly \$1.4 billion per year on average over the last ten years. [Read more here.](#)

Report released by International Code Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Building Safety and Security

The International Code Council recently announced the publication of its Building Safety and Security Report. The report is intended to guide architects, first responders, and local and state authorities in evaluating facilities, including schools, against potential targeted acts of violence. "We are impacted every day by building safety, so it is imperative we help guide our local and state authorities in taking the appropriate actions to keep our communities safe," said Code Council Senior Vice President of Technical Services, Mike Pfeiffer. "This report will help to develop the necessary balance between facility security and safety considerations." [Read more here.](#)

International Code Council hires two new experts to support its codes and standards efforts

The Code Council recently welcomed two new experts whose experience and insight will support the Code Council's efforts to expand the use of the International Codes to help fortify the built environment. **Ramiro Mata** will serve as the head facilitator of the Code Council's development process for [plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas \(PMG\) standards](#). **Rick Bluntzer** will serve as regional manager in the southwestern states, helping the [ICC Government Relations team](#) on the adoption and use of codes, standards and services. [Read more here.](#)

STORM SHELTERS KEEP THE PUBLIC SAFE: Here's a review on storm shelters in codes and standards

With 2023 already producing severe weather across the United States, here's a review on storm shelters and new information on tornado load requirements coming to the 2024 editions of the I-Codes to help keep communities and people safe.

- The National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) and the Code Council developed the ICC 500 Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters. The International Building Code (IBC) requires schools and facilities that house critical emergency operations (911 call stations, emergency operation centers, and fire, rescue, ambulance and police stations) in the 250-mph zone to include storm shelters when they are constructed. With 2023 already producing severe weather and deadly tornadoes, you might find this [information on storm shelters](#) helpful.
- **Keep an eye out for the 2024 edition of the International Building Code (IBC)** which will feature a new section on structural design loads for tornadoes. This new section of the 2024 IBC is based on a newly developed chapter in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7-22 Standard: *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*.
- Ahead of the 2024 IBC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have jointly developed a [design guide](#) for the new tornado load requirements in ASCE 7-22 that you and your community might find useful as well.



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

New CodeNotes addresses code requirements of Section 717 of the IPC and Section P3011 of the IRC
From the latest edition of CodeNotes — “Relining Building Sewers and Building Drains in the I-Codes” — is based on Section 717 of the 2021 International Plumbing Code and Section P3011 of the 2021 International Residential Code. These lining methods require little or no digging and use significantly less time to complete than conventional pipe installation methods. They are suitable for repairing both short and long runs of pipes that do not need to be increased in size. This CodeNote, by Jim Cika, director of PMG Technical Resources for the International Code Council, covers the process referred to as the “fold and form pipe (FFP)” method of pipe restoration for relining of building sewers and building drains found in the I-Codes. [Read more here.](#)

International Code Council highlights the work of Mechanical Skills Plumbing Apprenticeship School

As part of the recent World Plumbing Day, the International Code Council highlighted the work [Mechanical Skills Plumbing Apprenticeship School](#) (Mechanical Skills, Inc.), based in Indianapolis. The school is an important resource for the plumbing industry and is one of the many great apprenticeship training schools across the country. Mark Fasel, Director of PMG Technical Resources for the Code Council and ICC Certified Residential and Commercial Plumbing Inspector, teaches fourth-year apprentice students at Mechanical Skills, Inc. about the [International Plumbing Code® \(IPC\)](#) and Indiana Plumbing Law as they prepare for their Journeyman and Contractor exams. [Read more here.](#)



ICC Evaluation Services updates

AC377 to provide clarity for code officials and streamlined compliance for manufacturers and industry
At the ICC-ES Evaluation Committee public hearing, a revision to ICC-ES acceptance criteria (AC377) for spray-applied foam plastic insulation was unanimously approved. The revision to AC377 provides a clear, concise and transparent path for spray-applied foam plastic insulation for use in unvented attics without a code-prescribed ignition barrier. The revision was developed with product manufacturers and industry partners and will provide code officials clarity in the alternative test method specifically for use in unvented attics. ICC-ES and [ICC NTA](#) conducted testing to determine the performance characteristics of code-compliant unvented attic insulation materials, and with which performance characteristics were used as the basis for the conditions of the approved revision to AC377. [Read more here.](#)



ICC Community Development Solutions update

Introducing ICC Code Access™ powered by Muncity® for ePermitting and code enforcement

Muncity is ICC’s cloud-based software solution built with input from code officials. It allows code officials to provide permits or issue certificates, conduct building, fire and safety inspections, and look up codes and standards efficiently and securely from anywhere. The integration that building safety professionals have been asking for is here. **ICC Code Access powered by Muncity** allows you to instantly access the latest building code requirements within the digital application. You no longer need to fumble between apps and browser tabs. You don’t have to find your hardcopy code book and wonder if it is the most up-to-date version. All the information you need will now be accessible from within the Muncity 5 desktop. It will be accurate, immediate, and all in one place. Instantly. Digitally. Conveniently. Join us for a [Muncity Overview Webinar](#) on April 6 or April 13 at 1 pm ET / 10 am PT. [Register now.](#)



In-person training and meeting event

April 29 – May 3 | Tampa, FL

REGISTER TODAY!