

ICC [Government Relations](#) Monthly Update - **December 2020**

Follow @ICC_GR on [Twitter](#) for breaking news & announcements throughout the month.



Click [here](#) and [here](#) for the ICC Government Relations Staff Regional Maps.

Code Council officials are preparing for virtual Group A Committee Action Hearings April 11-May 5

The International Code Council has begun its 2024 code development process and confirmed its Committee Action Hearings will take place April 11-May 5, 2021.

- Notifications for ICC Code Committee appointments were sent November 25. Committee rosters online are undergoing updates at this time.
- Submissions for code change proposals are currently open through January 11, 2021. Anyone can submit a proposal via the Code Council's cloud-based program, cdpACCESS, at www.cdpassess.com. All Group A codes are [posted on Digital Codes](#).
- Speaking participants and those interested in listening to the proceedings will be able to join virtually. [Read more here](#).
- For a recent tutorial on using cdpACCESS, [click here](#).
- For the 2021/2022 Code Development Schedule that details all Group A and Group B activities and deadlines, [please visit here](#).

More than 240,000 votes were cast and more than 2,600 voting representatives participated in the code development process for the 2021 International Codes. To continue to refine the process, issues were referred to the Board Committee on the Long-Term Code Development Process. [Read more here](#).

Code Council members voted 92 percent to approve proposal that reincorporates ICC in Delaware

Last month, the Code Council [sent a ballot](#) to validated voting members to vote on reincorporating in Delaware. Members overwhelmingly voted in favor of the proposal with 92 percent approving the measure. With this clear mandate from members, the board has authorized the CEO to now take the steps to finalize the change by following necessary statutory requirements. This change will allow us to provide more effective services for all our members, customers and stakeholders. If you have questions or comments, please reach out to memberinput@iccsafe.org.

New FEMA study projects implementing International Codes could save \$600 billion by 2060

FEMA just released its landmark study, "[Building Codes Save: A National Study](#)," an in-depth look at the quantified benefits—avoided losses to buildings and building contents—from adopting the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC). As the frequency of natural hazards continue to increase, this study reaffirms that building codes continue to be the best first line of defense. Alarming, the FEMA study found that 65 percent of counties, cities, and towns across the U.S. have not adopted modern building codes, only 50 percent of cumulative post-2000 construction adhered to the I-Codes, and 30 percent of new construction is occurring in communities with no codes at all or codes that are more than 20 years outdated. Based on a database of more than 18 million actual buildings constructed since the inception of the I-Codes in 2000, the frequency of hazard events across the country, and the contents and edition of the IBC and IRC in effect in each locality where post-2000 construction took place, the study found:

- The IRC and IBC provided more than \$27 billion in cumulative mitigation benefits against flood, hurricane wind, and earthquake hazards from 2000 to 2016. These benefits could have been doubled if all post 2000 construction adhered to the I-Codes.
- If construction continues at the pace the study observed and if the proportion of that construction adhering to the I-Codes is consistent with the trend the study identifies, the I-Codes could help communities avoid \$132-\$171 billion in cumulative losses through 2040.
- If all new buildings across the U.S. were built to modern editions of the I-Codes, the country would save more than \$600 billion by 2060.

[Read more here](#). And for more FEMA links on the study, [read more here](#).

International Fire Safety Standard outlines common principles, best practices for global approach

The International Code Council recently helped develop and publish the International Fire Safety Standard (IFSS). [This guideline](#) outlines common principles and best practices designed to save lives by

reducing risk and preventing devastating fires. The International Fire Safety Standard is an industry-led global response to addressing differing or, in some cases, non-existent requirements in countries across the world to fire safety. Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO, said, “The International Codes, particularly the International Building Code and International Fire Code, offer a strong compliance pathway for jurisdictions looking to implement the IFSS Common Principles. Additionally, the training, certification, digital tools, product testing and evaluation, and accreditation services that comprise the growing Code Council Family of Solutions can aid jurisdictions in the hard work of effective code implementation and enforcement.” [Read more here.](#)

Webinar video designed to help local jurisdictions apply for CARES Act relief before December 30

With the December 30 expiration date looming, code officials and their jurisdictions may find the webinar [Use it or Lose it: Federal CARES Act Funding for ICC Digital Codes Premium](#) helpful. Learn about ICC Digital Codes Premium Complete and how code officials and their jurisdictions can secure federal CARES Act funding to support their departments. The ICC Government Relations staff have organized and maintained a news archive in the [Coronavirus Response Center](#). It includes innovations and a wide selection of resources for communities to adapt to the workplace and public safety concerns in the pandemic. [You can review the archive here.](#)

New online tools available on IECC adoptions, compliance and other energy and decarbonization info

New sites are now available [on adoptions](#) as well as [on compliance](#) involving the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). [The adoption page](#) includes a map that provides new data from DOE’s Pacific Northwest National Lab on the benefits for average new homes if a state enforces the 2018 IECC. The most relevant number for most users is the average annual energy savings. There is a downloadable infographic for each state that adopts the IECC. There is also a new reference webpage titled “[Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction](#),” to make more data and other resources available to users.

Interest continues to surge in preventing another record season of wildfire devastation

The year 2020 marked a milestone in wildfires devastation in terms of season length, acres destroyed and intensity, and that is turning more and more attention to the [International Wildland-Urban Interface Code](#) and strategies to limit future fire destruction.

- The Urban Land Institute issued this [report on wildfire strategies](#) for real estate that focuses on the role of codes, titled “**Firebreak: Wildfire Resilience Strategies for Real Estate.**”
- Rik Johnsson, a NIST mechanical engineer in the Fire Research Division’s WUI Fire Group, offers his insights in “[Knocking Down Fences for Fire Research.](#)”
- National Public Radio produced this [deep dive analysis](#) on how much work is needed to make state and local jurisdictions more competent in their responses to future outbreaks. It is titled “**Rebuilding After A Wildfire? Most States Don’t Require Fire-Resistant Materials.**”
- Recently, former CAL FIRE Director Chief Ruben Grijalva submitted this article published in *Governing* magazine: [How Better Building Codes Can Mitigate Wildfires’ Devastation](#), which stated “that adopting the 2015 edition of the IWUIC in 10,000 census blocks across the country would generate [\\$4 in wildfire mitigation savings for every \\$1 invested](#) — benefits that represent avoided casualties, property damage, business interruptions, and insurance costs.”
- **Online seminar 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 11** provides basic code knowledge for proper application of the 2018 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code. Instruction focuses on basic code concepts with a focus on mitigating fire risks to structures and wildland. [Read more here.](#)

It’s free and available for you to review and share: The ICC Evaluation Services update video

If you missed the free recent webinar updating Code Council members on the ICC Evaluation Services (ICC-ES), here’s a terrific opportunity to [see it and to keep it handy for future reference](#). The one-hour video shows how ICC-ES helps professionals in the built environment do their daily work. Presenters are **Shahin Moinian**, President, ICC Evaluation Service, **Dottie Mazzarella**, Vice President, ICC Government Relations, and **Jim Cika**, Director, ICC PMG Resources. The overview includes the ICC-ES product certification program description, how to effectively read and use ICC-ES product evaluation reports, the product evaluation listing development process and the benefits of ICC-ES product certification.

FEMA's new online data shows natural hazards risks for communities to aid in mitigation planning

The [National Risk Index](#) is a new, online mapping application from FEMA that identifies communities most at risk to 18 criteria. It makes the underlying data available for use by state, local, tribal and territorial partners, and can help communities, especially those with limited mapping and risk assessment capabilities, better prepare for natural hazards by providing standardized risk data for mitigation planning and an overview of multiple risk factors. Additionally, it can help jurisdictions in developing a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan to help increase community resilience. The National Risk Index's interactive web maps can assist communities in:

- Updating emergency operations plans
- Enhancing hazard mitigation plans
- Prioritizing and allocating resources
- Identifying the need for more refined risk assessments
- Encouraging community-level risk communication and engagement
- Educating homeowners and renters
- Supporting adoption of enhanced codes and standards
- Informing long-term community recovery

Read an [overview of the National Risk Index](#) and how it can be used to support mitigation planning, hazard mitigation assistance grants and risk communication.

Interested in Code Council insights? Join the conversations in ICC Membership Councils and MJC

All Code Council members are eligible to join any of the six ICC Membership Councils and, with some additional eligibility requirements, the Major Jurisdiction Committee where a full range of issues are the topics of discussions and work groups aimed at making the ICC Family of Solutions the leader in safety and community-based resiliency. All of them conduct meetings online and cost nothing to join. Each Membership Council webpage has a link to enroll new members. The Membership Councils are:

- [Building Membership Council](#) – Chair is Dan Dockery, City of Winston-Salem, N.C.
- [Fire Service Membership Council](#) – Chair is Gary West of Tennessee, National Association of State Fire Marshals
- [PMG Membership Council](#) – Chair is Richard Clark, City of Colleyville, Texas
- [Sustainability Membership Council](#) – Chair is Greg Johnson, St. Paul, Minn.
- [Emerging Leaders Membership Council](#) – Chair is Andre Jaen, Jefferson County, Colo.
- [Global Membership Council](#) – Chair is Lynn Balfour, Ontario, Canada

Members may also attend meetings of the [Major Jurisdiction Committee](#) (MJC), whose Steering Committee hosts monthly conference calls that are open to the public.

December 10 is the deadline to apply for assisting on one of the ICC Exam Development Committees

Are you interested in using your experience and insights to help on one of the [ICC Exam Development Committees](#)? The deadline is December 10 to apply. The committees include Commercial Building, Commercial Fire Alarm, Fire Services, Fire Sprinkler, Portable/Pre-Engineered Fire Extinguishing Systems (NAFED), Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector/Zoning, Residential Building, Special Inspector – Concrete, Special Inspector – Masonry, Special Inspector – Soils, and Sustainability. [Apply here](#).

Free webinar December 10 to explain the Energy Rating Index and the HERS Index function

The Energy Rating Index (ERI) is a compliance pathway in the 2015, 2018 and 2021 versions of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index is a voluntary, national program used to rate the energy efficiency of homes. Although both HERS and ERI are largely based on the same American National Standard, ANSI/RESNET/ICC Standard 301, there are significant differences between these two programs. A free webinar on December 10, 2020 — The Energy Rating Index and HERS Index: Understanding the Differences — will clarify the differences between ERI and HERS to assist state and local code officials, builders and HERS Raters with understanding how each works. [Read more and register here](#).

Code Council CEO Dominic Sims discusses goals and accomplishments in recent PM Engineer article

PM Engineer recently interviewed International Code Council CEO Dominic Sims about the current landscape for codes and standards and the plumbing industry overall. Sims has led ICC since 2012 and is responsible for overall activities and financial performance of the organization. [Read more here.](#)

Annual Code Council top honors awards presented recently at the inaugural ICC Learn Live

The International Code Council honored outstanding individuals and organizations for their accomplishments and service to their communities, the building safety industry and the Code Council at a special virtual awards event during the inaugural [ICC Learn Live](#). Visit the recently launched 2020 Awards [webpage](#) that contains full profiles of the award recipients. The awards and recipients are:

- **The Bobby J. Fowler Award** - Sam Francis, Retired from American Wood Council and City of Dayton OH
- **The Gerald H. Jones Code Official of the Year Award** - Valarie Evans, Building Official, City of North Las Vegas
- **The Robert W. Gain Fire Prevention Leadership Award** - Lee Wheeler, Retired Fire Chief from the Renton, Washington, Fire Department.
- **ICC Excellence in Public Safety Award** - Steven Tafoya, Building Official/Director for the Fayette County, Georgia, Department of Building Safety.
- **ICC Community Service Award** - Mansfield, Texas, Volunteer Program.
- **Educator of the Year Award** - Charles Clawson, Founder of Building Professionals Institute and Development Services Director for the City of Arlington, Texas.
- **The Chapter of the Year Award** - Code Official Association of Alabama.
- **The Chapter Merit Award** - Oregon Permit Technicians Association.
- **Raising the Profile Award** - Joel A. Dramis. Building Code Administrator for the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, Building Department.
- **PMG Leadership Award** - Richard Grace, Code Specialist for Fairfax County, Virginia.
- **The National Leadership in Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Award** - Brad Smith and the City of Santa Monica.
- **Meritorious Service Award** - Jim. W. Sealy (posthumously), self-employed architect.

***GOT PULSE?* Fire experts Karl Fippinger and Kevin Scott explore the 2018 IWUIC and Commentary**

In this episode of the Pulse Podcast, Code Council Government Relations Vice President of Fire and Disaster Mitigation [Karl Fippinger](#) talks with [Kevin Scott](#), President of KH Scott and Associates, about the 2018 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and Commentary. Have questions about the podcast? Check out the [ICC Pulse Podcast FAQs](#). Follow the International Code Council on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and spread the word about our podcast using the hashtag #ICCPulsepod.

Upcoming from the [ICC Learning Center](#): Institutes, training, webinars, etc.

Online learning is available from the ICC Learning Center. Find course listings you'd like to attend in the [Learning Center](#) using the Search function. Single-day training events are an opportunity to focus on topics to ensure your code knowledge stays up to date, with some seminars offering a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection:

- **December 1 - [2018 IFC Essentials](#).**
- **December 1-4 - [Code Official Institute](#).**
- **December 7-9 - [2018 Fire Inspector I 66 Certification Test Academy](#).**
- **December 7-11 - [2018 Residential Building Inspection Institute](#).**
- **December 8 - [Procedures for Officers and Inspectors](#).**
- **December 15 - [2021 IBC Significant Changes](#).**
- **December 21 - [Leadership Webinar Series: Public Speaking for the Code Official](#).**
- **January 7 - [2018 IBC Means of Egress](#).**
- **January 12 - [2021 IRC Significant Changes](#).**
- **January 13 - 2018 Residential Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Administration and Adoption](#).**
- **January 19-21 - [2018 Principles of Building Safety Institute](#).**
- **January 19 - [2021 IFC Significant Changes](#)**
- **January 19 - [Leadership Webinar Series: Effective Leadership](#).**

- January 22 - [Applying the Codes to Cannabis Facilities](#).
- January 25-28 - [Code Official Institute](#).
- January 26 - 2018 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Building Planning](#).
- January 27 - [2018 IBC® Essentials](#).
- February 2 - [2018 IBC® and IFC® Fire Protection Systems](#).
- Available daily online, [2015 Permit Technician 14 Study Guide](#).
- Available daily online, [IRC® Online Study Guide for Residential Building Inspectors B1](#).

Plus check out more upcoming virtual learning and webinar offerings here:

- [Virtual landing page](#) [Webinar landing page](#)