

ICC [Government Relations](#) Monthly Update – July 2021

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Code Council issues online statement on the news of the Surfside, Florida, building collapse tragedy

We are deeply saddened by the news of the recent building collapse in Surfside, Florida. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected and to the rescue crews working hard to identify survivors. As Florida officials continue to investigate this tragedy, the International Code Council will support Florida in any way it can. We understand this incident will likely spur additional inspections throughout the area, and the Code Council will share information with its network of code officials and inspectors should Florida need additional support. [Read the full statement from The Pulse here.](#)

2021 Annual Conference continues traditions and expands inclusions to major Code Council events

The [2021 ICC Annual Conference and Public Comment Hearing](#), the Code Council's signature annual event, has been reimagined for live and virtual offerings. Running September 19-28 at the [David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh](#), it is still packed full of networking and learning opportunities. And with a lower delegate registration cost and new sessions, it promises to be the building safety event of the year. The safety and health of staff, members, and stakeholders is paramount. Conference managers will follow all federal, state, and local health requirements in place in September. [Click here to see the agenda.](#) And here's an overview of what's new this year:

- The [Bob Fowler Motorcycle Ride](#) will be a virtual ride/walk/run this year.
- The **Safety 2.0 Networking Happy Hour** on Monday evening will give attendees an opportunity to network and socialize with existing friends and new contacts.
- The **Empowering Leaders Luncheon & Panel Discussion** on Monday afternoon will feature an expert leadership [speaker](#) and a discussion with building safety professionals.
- The formal evening event on Tuesday – **Connections Gala: A Community Reunited** – will be held at the Omni Grand Ballroom, a historic, majestic space.
- Onsite [training](#) will be available on Sunday afternoon. Annual conference attendees will also get access to [ICC Learn Live](#), a full week of virtual training November 18-21.
- The [Public Comment Hearings](#) begin on Tuesday morning, September 21, and continue through September 28.
- [Global Connections Day](#) will be a virtual event, Tuesday, October 12, 2021.
- Resumption of the expo is postponed until 2022 due to feedback from past exhibitors.

REMINDER: [Code of Honor Scholarship applications](#) submittal deadline is July 9 for this year's events!

Code Council Board appoints 93 members to develop the 2024 IECC commercial and residential codes

As outlined within the Code Council's energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction framework, [Leading the Way to Energy Efficiency: A Path Forward on Energy and Sustainability to Confront a Changing Climate](#), the Code Council Board of Directors has appointed 48 members to its Residential Energy Code Consensus Committee and 45 members to its Commercial Energy Code Consensus Committee, one-third of which are governmental regulators. To ensure the committees have enough time to complete work to publish the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) alongside the other International Codes, IECC committee member terms are effective immediately and will end June 15, 2024. The appointees represent a wide array of experience in building types and energy efficiency strategies, as well as racial, gender and socio-economic diversity, composing balanced committees that represent a multitude of stakeholder interests. Each committee member was chosen based on their qualifications, interest category, past participation in the codes and standards development process, geography and organization size. [Read more here.](#)

- Officers of the [Residential Energy Code Consensus Committee](#) are John "JC" Hudgison, Chief Building Official of Tampa, Florida, Chair; Bridget Herring, Energy Program Coordinator of Asheville, North Carolina, Vice Chair; Robin Yochum, Energy Program Manager for the State of Nevada, Vice Chair.

- Officers of the [Commercial Energy Code Consensus Committee](#) are Duane Jonlin, Energy Code & Conservation Advisor of Seattle, Washington, Chair, and Emily Hoffman, Director of Energy Code Compliance for New York City.

Virtual building inspections legislation passes unanimously in Florida’s state senate and house

The state of Florida is poised to officially make legal the use of virtual building inspections. Through unanimous votes in both Florida’s House of Representatives and Senate, the state government recently passed The Florida Build Codes Act. If signed into law, the bill will authorize local and state build code enforcement agencies to allow virtual building inspections. While the practice of virtual inspections is nothing new, in response to the pandemic, last year multiple cities across multiple states implemented virtual inspection programs. Cities and counties in Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and Washington are allowing virtual inspections to varying degrees. [Read more here](#).

August 21 is the deadline for all Governmental Member Voting Representatives to be validated

All Governmental Member Voting Representatives must be validated this year to participate in the new [code development cycle](#). Governmental Member primary representatives must validate their voting representatives by August 21 in order to fully participate in the code development process. [Validate credentials here](#). Also, the Code Council has issued the “2021 Report of the Committee Action Hearings on the 2021 Editions of the Group A International Codes.” The public comment deadline on the Group A code proposals was set for July 2. [See it here](#).

Code Council launches process to conduct an in-depth review of the ICC Performance Code

The International Code Council will be working with [Brian Meacham, PhD, PE](#), an international expert in performance-based building control systems, to launch a process of reimagining the ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities (ICCPC). The aim is to gain a better understanding of current thinking and perspectives across multiple disciplines about how performance-based approaches are viewed in the United States and internationally, and to learn from the past two decades of increasing use of performance-based codes. The Code Council has launched a new [ICCPC portal](#), which includes the opportunity for stakeholders around the world to [register their interest](#) in collaborating to rethink the ICC Performance Code, and to join an active discussion through a new Code Council-moderated [discussion forum](#) on LinkedIn. [Read more here](#).

Efforts by ICC members, chapters, jurisdictions and supporters mark Building Safety Month milestones

Thanks to the support of ICC members across the nation for the 2021 Building Safety Month, new milestones were reached by chapters, jurisdictions, partners, sponsors and staff of the Code Council. More than 200 governors, jurisdictions and organizations issued proclamations proclaiming May 2021 Building Safety Month, including U.S. President Biden. “Investing in our infrastructure and adopting and implementing modern building codes are the most effective mitigation measures communities can undertake.” Additionally, U.S. Representative Sharice Davids (D-KS 3rd District) [recognized Building Safety Month](#) and the work of the Code Council, its board and members, and industry partners during the June 17 proceedings of the U.S. Congress. Her remarks are now part of the Congressional Record — the official daily record of the debates and proceedings of the U.S. Congress. View the proclamation for [National Building Safety Month](#) and the rest of [this year’s proclamations](#). [Read more here](#).

First in a free monthly series of webinars on using American Rescue Plan funds is accessible here

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides \$350 billion in assistance to state, local, tribal and territorial governments through newly established Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. These funds mark a unique opportunity for code officials and for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to respond to COVID-19 and bring back jobs. Jurisdictions can use these funds to:

- Respond to the public health emergency
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency
- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- Provide premium pay for essential workers

- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

Building code department staffing and operations expenses and software investments that enable remote work, including Code Council products and solutions, are eligible expenditures under some of these five categories. Here is the first in a series of free monthly webinars in which the Code Council offers resources to help navigate the ARP. [Watch this webinar here.](#)

Code Council senior staff are instructors in ADA training events July 26-28 and August 2-5

During the past 30 years, the National ADA Symposium has earned the reputation as the most comprehensive training event available on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and disability-related laws. Code Council senior staff architects Kimberly Paarlberg and Jay Woodward are participating as instructors this year, as they have for several years now. Find out more about the in-person (July 26-28) and virtual (Aug 2-5) [components of the symposium and how to register.](#)

Disaster Response Alliance stands ready to help jurisdictions through 2021 Atlantic hurricane season

Now, one month into the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season, preparations are readied for natural disaster safety and recovery. The Code Council and its members are standing by to help through the [Disaster Response Alliance](#). Local and state jurisdictions in the U.S. as well as federal agencies may also contact the Disaster Response Alliance for help to reach skilled professionals who volunteer to assist jurisdictions that request aid with building damage assessment, building inspections and other code-related functions in disaster areas. Code Council members also assist devastated communities with post-disaster building plans reviews, inspections and permit operations through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). [Read more here.](#)

FEMA releases updated editions of community and residential safe room installation guides

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announces the release of its updated fifth edition of FEMA P-320 (2021) [Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building or Installing a Safe Room for Your Home](#) and its updated fourth edition of FEMA P-361 (2021) [Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms](#). The 2021 edition of FEMA P-361 updates and refines planning guidance, best practices and funding criteria for safe rooms that provide occupants with near-absolute protection from wind and wind-borne debris. The 2021 edition of FEMA P-320 features updated residential safe room guidance and prescriptive safe room designs that meet FEMA criteria for one- and two-family dwellings. Both FEMA publications reference the latest edition of the International Code Council's and the National Storm Shelter Association's ICC 500-2020 [Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters](#). [Read more here.](#)

Webinar helps code enforcement officers to prepare for increases in rental property vacancies

With rental property vacancies expected to rise, the time to plan is now, according to Karen Black, chief executive officer of May 8 Consulting, a Philadelphia-based social impact consulting firm. Black presented the webinar "Code Enforcement — A Tool for Preventing Vacancy and Abandonment" as part of the National Association of REALTORS' [Stabilizing and Revitalizing Neighborhoods in the COVID-19 Era](#) webinar series. Communities that enforce building codes help promote safer, healthier spaces to live and work; support community stability and confidence; and ultimately encourage compliance among owners of vacant and substandard rental properties, Black said. The COVID-19 pandemic, she said, renders vacancy management especially important as an estimated 30 million renters stand to be evicted as a result of the coronavirus-related economic crisis. [Read more here.](#)

List of ICC standards updated for current, revision and under new development are published

As an ANSI-accredited standards developing organization, the International Code Council can respond to the needs of its membership in developing standards for reference in the International Codes. As part of the ANSI accreditation, ICC has written consensus procedures to outline the development of standards in the most time-efficient manner. Development can include both existing standards on a five-year revision cycle as well as brand new standards to address new challenges. Code Council standards are kept current to reflect the state-of-the-art for the building industry and maintain approval as American National Standards. A helpful [Code Council webinar](#) was prepared in April to highlight the steps taken during an ICC standards development project. As part of the Code Council's Learn Live offerings, the

webinar can provide continuing education for those wishing to enhance their knowledge of the standards development process for ANSI approval as an American National Standard. [Read more here about ICC standards that are current, being revised or are under new development.](#)

International Code Council joins Global Alliance for Building and Construction to enhance resiliency

The International Code Council has become the newest member of the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction](#) (GlobalABC), the leading global platform for governments, the private sector, civil society, and intergovernmental and international organizations to increase action towards a zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector. As the global leader in developing model building codes and standards, the Code Council is uniquely positioned to both share data and best practices from the U.S. experience as well as to bring proven outcomes and lessons learned from the alliance partners from around the world to the family of solutions. [Read more here.](#)

Second edition of deck construction publication on deck code compliance is released for 2021 IRC

The Code Council and the North American Deck and Railing Association have released the second edition of *Deck Construction: Based on the 2021 International Residential Code*, the most comprehensive publication available for deck code compliance. It contains provisions for decks from the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC), as well as tables and figures, commentary, photos and illustrations that help readers better understand the intent and purpose behind the code provisions. Distinctions between the 2018 and 2021 IRC provisions were also included where relevant. [Read more here.](#)

TēCA raises the bar for cannabis-related trainers and course developers with IAS Accreditation

The eLearn Cannabis Academy (TēCA), a division of the eLearn Academy, is the first cannabis-related training and curriculum development organization to be accredited through the International Accreditation Service (IAS) Training Provider and Training Course Developers (AC371) program. TēCA's mission is to provide the cannabis and cannabidiol (CBD) industries with a "Gold Standard" learning experience through IAS-accredited courses that are available 24/7/365 online. The TēCA certificate credential, earned by trainees after passing an online proctored exam, will recognize and validate an individual's qualifications to work in the cannabis and CBD industries and enhance their legitimacy and professionalism. The IAS approach aims to ensure that accredited training programs prepare trainees to be efficient and competent to meet the needs of industry, regulators and consumers. It strengthens the professional and academic reputation of training programs. [Read more here.](#)

***GOT PULSE?* GR's Steve Jones and experts discuss garage door safety and inspection tips**

[Steve Jones](#), Code Council Senior Gov't Relations Regional Manager talks with [Mike Fischer](#), Executive Director of the International Door Association (IDA); and [Gordon Thomas](#), Technical Director at Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) on the importance of garage door safety. They also share safety tips and resources for inspectors and the public on checking garage doors. [Hear episode 41.](#)

Upcoming from the Code Council 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 ICC 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:

- **July 7 – [2018 IRC Essentials.](#)**
- **July 8 – [2018 IPC Essentials.](#)**
- **July 13-15 - [2018 Residential Mechanical Inspector - M1.](#)**
- **July 15 - Leadership Webinar Series: [The Courageous Leader.](#)**
- **July 15 – Mass Timber Webinar Series: [2021 IBC Mass Timber – R & D.](#)**
- **July 20-22 - [2018 Fire Inspector II - 67.](#)**
- **July 21 – [Inspector Skills.](#)**
- **July 22 - [Effective Communication.](#)**
- **July 22 - Mass Timber Webinar Series: [2021 IBC Tall Mass Timber – How Big and How Tall?](#)**
- **July 23 – [2018 IBC Means of Egress.](#)**

- July 26-28 – [2018 Principles of Building Safety Institute.](#)
- July 27-28 - [Training: Permit Tech Institute.](#)
- July 29 - [2021 IPC, IMC, and IFGC Significant Changes.](#)
- July 29 - Mass Timber Webinar Series: [2021 IBC Tall Mass Timber Construction – Fire Safety.](#)
- August 1-5 - [2018 Plan Review.](#)
- August 2-6 - [2018 Plan Review Institute.](#)
- August 5 – Mass Timber Webinar Series: [2021 IBC/IFC Tall Mass Timber – Shake and Bake.](#)
- August 6 - Leadership Webinar Series: [Challenging Discussions.](#)
- August 9-12 - [Code Official Institute.](#)
- August 10-12 - [2018 Residential Plumbing Inspector - P1.](#)
- August 17-18 - [When Disaster Strikes.](#)
- August 18 - [2021 IBC Significant Changes.](#)
- August 19 - [2018 IBC Essentials.](#)
- August 24-26 - [2018 Fire & Life Safety Institute.](#)
- August 25 - [Customer Service and Code Enforcement.](#)
- August 31 - [2021 IRC Significant Changes.](#)
- September 1-2 - [2018 Permit Technician Institute.](#)
- September 2 - [2021 IFC Significant Changes.](#)
- September 3 - [Report Writing for the Code Official.](#)
- September 9 - [Officer Safety Procedures: HazMat, Hoarding & Joint Enforcement Safety.](#)
- September 13-17 - [2018 Residential Building Inspection Institute.](#)
- September 30 - [Millennials in Code Enforcement.](#)
- October 4-8 - [2018 Residential Building Inspector B1 Certification Test Academy.](#)
- October 6 - [Complaint Management from Start to Finish](#)

Check out more [upcoming learning opportunities here.](#)