

ICC Government Relations Chapter Monthly Update – December 2018



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City of Chicago joins the Code Council's family of major American cities with special event

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel today (Dec. 3) conducted the official kickoff event of the modernizing of Chicago's Construction Codes, marking the first of three phases of the City of Chicago's entry to the International Code Council's family of major American cities. Representing the Code Council were ICC CEO Dominic Sims, Government Relations Senior Vice President Sara Yerkes, Senior Vice President Technical Services Mike Pfeiffer, Vice President Communications Whitney Doll, Lead Senior Regional Manager Tim Schmitz and ICC outside counsel Jon Rosenblatt. The City intends to review and update its requirements for the design, construction and maintenance of buildings to align, where appropriate, with the latest edition of the I-Codes in three phases.

- The first phase has been completed, which was the revision and alignment of the Chicago Electrical Code with the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code.
- Phase 2 will be the review to align Chicago's existing requirements to the International Building Code, International Fire Code, International Existing Building Code and the International Property Maintenance Code.
- Phase 3 will include further updates to include mechanical, fuel gas, energy conservation and plumbing.

This modernizing of the Chicago Construction Codes is under the oversight of Building Commissioner Judy Frydland and managed by Deputy Commissioner Grant Ullrich.

Last day to vote on the Group A I-Code proposals on cdpACCESS is Friday, December 7

The Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV) for the Group A 2021 I-Code proposals will close on Friday, December 7, at 11:59 PM Pacific time. Online voting, [using cdpACCESS](#), started November 19. Official Public Comment Hearing results from Richmond are available, [click here](#). The unofficial OGCV results will be available approximately two weeks after conclusion of OGCV. The online posting of the final action Group A results, including OGCV results, will occur following the Validation Committee's certification of the OGCV and report to the Code Council Board of Directors (see Section 10.0 of CP28 Code Development). The Group A Codes include the IBC (egress, fire safety, general), IFC, IFGC, IMC, IPC, IPMC, IPSDC, IRC (mechanical, plumbing), ISPSC, IWUIC and IZC. [Group B changes can be submitted via cdpACCESS and are due Jan. 7, 2019](#). Hearings on Group B proposals are set for:

- April 28 – May 8, 2019 Committee Action Hearing - Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, N.M.
- October 23 – 30, 2019 Public Comment Hearing – Rio Hotel/Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev.

Early announcement: "No Code, No Confidence" is the theme for the 2019 Building Safety Month

It's December 2018, and you already know the theme for the 2019 Building Safety Month: "No Code, No Confidence." This year we have expanded our Building Safety Month campaign to all year round.

Planning for the 2019 starts now. Here are the weekly themes for the month of May:

- **Week 1** – (May 1- May 5): Preparing for disasters: Build strong, build smart
- **Week 2** – (May 6- May 12): Ensuring a safer future through training and education
- **Week 3** – (May 13- May 19): Securing clean, abundant water for all communities
- **Week 4** – (May 20- May 26): Construction professionals and homeowners: Partners in safety
- **Week 5** – (May 27- May 31): Innovations in building safety

Join our yearlong celebration and use hashtag [#BuildingSafety365](#). Below are suggested social media posts which can copy, paste and Tweet away:

- Looking forward to Building Safety Month 2019! Our overall theme this year is "No Code No Confidence." [#BuildingSafety365](#)
- The planning for Building Safety Month 2019 is underway and we are looking forward to celebrating with you throughout the month of May! This year our theme is "No Code No Confidence." [#BuildingSafety365](#)

- It's never too early to start spreading the word about building safety! Looking ahead to Building Safety Month 2019, this year's theme is "No Code No Confidence" #BuildingSafety365

Watch for more information to help you make your community's Building Safety Month events a hit!

New Disaster Response Alliance is getting a robust response from Code Council members

As communities in southern states and California continue their recovery from high winds, flooding and wildfire, response has been robust among Code Council Chapters and Members to [the Disaster Response Alliance](#) since it debuted in mid-October. The Alliance is the product of a joint project of the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations and ICC. DRA offers a database of skilled code officials, engineers and others across the nation. It also forms relationships with emergency response offices of state and local jurisdictions to recruit skilled volunteers to step into disaster recovery efforts to make post-disaster safety assessments, building damage assessments, inspections and other code-related functions. For more information, to request help, or to sign up, visit www.disasterresponse.org.

Code Council's Government Relations office welcomes Ryan Colker and Karl Fippinger to key positions

Two key positions in the ICC Government Relations office in Washington, D.C., were recently filled. **Ryan Colker** will serve as Vice President of Innovation to identify emerging issues in the building industry, including how new technologies can be leveraged by codes and standards, methods to modernize the application of building regulations, and the development of new business strategies that support members and building safety professionals. Colker, former Vice President of the National Institute of Building Sciences and former manager of government affairs for ASHRAE, will also serve as Executive Director of the Alliance for National and Community Resilience. **Karl Fippinger**, CEM, PMP, is the new Vice President of Fire and Disaster Mitigation. He will manage the Code Council's relationships and programs related to fire service activities and emergency management. He will work with federal, state and local agencies in the area of disaster preparedness and public safety. Most recently, he led federal disaster response and recovery programs as well as emergency response planning, training and exercises for Dewberry. Previously, he managed professional development and exhibits for the International Association of Fire Chiefs and has more than 25 years of combined fire and rescue service experience in Arlington County (VA), Fairfax County (VA), and Prince William County (VA) as an instructor, command officer, and assistant fire chief.

Code Council applauds National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2018

The International Code Council applauds the recent passage of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Reauthorization Act of 2018 ([S. 1768](#)). Congress established NEHRP in 1977 to reduce the long-term risk posed by earthquakes and associated seismic events like tsunamis and landslides. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), as the lead agency, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) jointly oversee the program, which was last reauthorized in 2004. [Read more.](#)

ICC's Winter Toolkit webpage offers list of organizations and tips for getting through a cold winter

Some of us look forward to winter activities, while others prefer huddling in front of a fireplace with a mug of hot chocolate. But a gentle reminder is in order: Each season has its dangers, and winter is no different. For example, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says thousands die each year from exposure to extreme cold, or from carbon monoxide poisoning due to faulty heating units, which also can cause fires in homes if not used properly. Another example: Deadly fires also can result when homeowners use torches to thaw frozen pipes. The [American Red Cross](#) offers tips to prevent pipes from freezing and what to do if it happens. Hang onto this issue of the December Chapter Monthly Update for its [connection to these valuable links of organizations and tips](#).

ICC online training events offer live, one-on-one instructor contact without the travel expenses

Live training events are available from any location with an internet connection. Virtual classrooms are different from web sessions. When you join a virtual classroom, you can actually see your instructor and those in the physical classroom and they can see you. A Virtual Classroom is a hybrid learning environment where you participate remotely and experience the same collaboration, instructor interaction and learning benefits as if you were physically in the classroom. According to a recent study

done by [Training Magazine](#), 86% of virtual classroom participants rated the experience “just as engaging” or “more engaging than” traditional classroom training. Here are benefits of Virtual Training:

- Saves you money by eliminating travel costs
- Saves you time because you never have to leave your home or office
- Obtain CEUs to apply towards certification renewal
- Gets remote teams training together
- Encourages collaboration among the learning group both virtually and in the physical classroom

See the list of new live training classes at the end of this **Chapter Monthly Update**.

FEMA’s 2018 National Preparedness Report finds codes helped to decrease disaster damage

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently published its [2018 National Preparedness Report](#).

In its seventh year, this report summarizes the nation's progress toward becoming more secure and resilient. It found communities benefit from building codes and offered 13 key findings that highlight successes and challenges across five core capabilities that have faced Persistent Preparedness Challenges—Operational Coordination, Infrastructure Systems, Housing, Economic Recovery, and Cybersecurity. The report highlights lessons learned from previous responses, along with findings from preparedness activities. Codes are highlighted as increasing the resilience of infrastructure as well as decreasing the damage disasters can cause and the likelihood of fatalities. For housing, the report says “building codes and regulations play a key role in promoting housing resiliency.” The 2018 National Preparedness Report also identifies gains made in preparedness across the nation and identifies where challenges remain. These findings provide insights into preparedness and informs decisions about future program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions.

2018 IgCC helps communities save money, protect resources and improve the health, life and safety

The newly published [2018 International Green Construction Code](#) provides a whole systems approach to the design, construction and operation of buildings and includes cost-effective measures that result in lower operating costs, better indoor environments, lower impact on natural resources, and improved neighborhood connections and walkability. A public-private collaboration, the green code correlates with the International Energy Conservation Code, ASHRAE Standard 90.1 and many other referenced standards. It helps governments streamline code development and adoption; saves them the time and money needed to develop their own codes; and creates uniformity among adopting jurisdictions.

***GOT PULSE?* ICC Government Relations’ Justin Wiley leads podcast to update progress made by ANCR**

Code Council Vice President of Government Relations [Justin Wiley](#) appears as the guest host for Episode 10 of the ICC Pulse Podcast. Resilience expert [Ryan Colker](#) joins Justin for a conversation about the Alliance for National and Community Resilience (ANCR). Ryan has served on the ANCR Board of Directors and recently joined ICC as Vice President of Innovation and ANCR’s executive director. He shares his resilience expertise and insight on the ANCR’s first benchmark focused on buildings. [Click here](#) to listen, and be sure to subscribe on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Play](#) and [Spotify](#).

Top hoarding expert and speaker Matt Paxton is featured in a bonus edition of the ICC Pulse Podcast

A special edition episode of the ICC Pulse Podcast features [Matt Paxton](#), top hoarding expert and cleaner on the hit television show [HOARDERS](#). Matt, who served as the keynote speaker at the 2018 ICC Annual Conference in Richmond, Va., shares his expertise about a topic that is inextricably linked to building safety, fire prevention and the codes. [Click here](#) to listen.

December 15: ICC will convert publications from ProtectedPDF to new versatile Watermark version

Effective Dec. 15, code professionals who purchased International Codes (I-Codes), state codes or other selected publications from the Code Council in either a PDF download or CD format will need to upgrade from the older **ProtectedPDF** to a newer, more versatile watermark version. After Dec. 15, the older **ProtectedPDF** versions will no longer work. The new watermark version allows users to access and view the codes on tablets and phones, vitally important for work in the field. The new watermark version files also work with any PDF reader, can be placed on two devices and do not require a serial number for viewing the PDF. Customers who have already downloaded the watermark version or sent the information on CD do not need to take any further action. [Read more about it here](#).

Upcoming from the [ICC Learning Center](#): Institutes, training, seminars, 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 6 - [Report Writing for Code Officials](#).
- December 6 - [Deep Foundations - Overview and Design Example](#).
- December 11 - **Free Webinar:** [Design of Post-Tensioned Floors using PT Designer](#).
- December 12 – [Chimneys and Vents](#). 2015 IFGC Webinar Series.
- December 13 - [Two-Way Post-Tensioned Slab Design](#).
- December 18 - [Fire Resistance Design for Wood Construction - A Primer for Structural Engineers](#).
- December 19 – [Specific Appliances and Gaseous Hydrogen Systems](#). 2015 IFGC Webinar Series.
- January 15-22 - Multi Day Virtual Event, [Inspector Skills](#).
- January 15 - [2018 IRC® Essentials](#)
- January 17 - [2018 IBC® Means of Egress](#)
- January 18 - [Basic Code Enforcement](#)
- January 18 - [2018 IPMC® Overview](#)
- January 30 - [Legal Aspects of Code Administration](#)
- February 7 - [2016 CBC Essentials](#)
- February 14 - [2016 CRC Essentials](#)

The following is the updated list of [ICC Institutes](#) and other training opportunities across the nation. Find course listings you'd like to attend in the [Learning Center](#) using the Search function:

- December 6 at MicroTek in Chicago, [Report Writing for Code Officials](#).
- December 10-11 in Orlando, Fla., [“When Disaster Strikes” Institute](#).
- January 11 at Country Club Hills, Ill., [2018 IRC Wood Wall Bracing Provisions](#).
- January 16 in Pittsburgh, Penn., [Significant Changes from ASCE 7–10 to ASCE 7–16](#).
- January 24 in Miami Beach, Fla., [Significant Changes from ASCE 7–10 to ASCE 7–16](#).
- January 28-31, in Brea, Calif., [Code Official Institute](#).
- February 4-8, in Chaska, Minn., [Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute](#).
- February 6, in Austin, Texas, [Significant Changes from ASCE 7–10 to ASCE 7–16](#).
- February 11-13 in Portland, Ore., [Principles of Building Safety Institute](#).
- February 15 at Country Club Hills, Ill., [Accessibility & Usability: Commercial and Residential](#).
- February 22 at Country Club Hills, Ill., [2018 IFC® & IBC® Hazardous Materials Provisions](#).
- March 5 at Charleston, S.C., [Significant Changes from ASCE 7–10 to ASCE 7–16](#).

Certification Test Academies feature interactive and question-based review for the exam. Students will receive a voucher to take the exam at a later date. Upcoming Academies:

- December 11-14, [B2 Com. Build. Insp.](#) in Brea, Calif.