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Code Council's 45th annual Building Safety Month campaign set to kick off on May 1

Building Safety Month is the Code Council's annual month-long educational campaign to raise awareness about the importance of building codes in establishing and ensuring the safety of the built environment. It kicks off on May 1. This year's [Building Safety Month](#) theme, "**Game On!**" motivates all citizens to get in the game and take part in learning about and practicing building safety. Each year, the Code Council, its members and communities around the world celebrate building safety through proclamations, educational events and community gatherings. View the 2025 Building Safety Month Poster [here](#).

[Read more here](#) →

Applications are sought now for FEMA's BRIC funding

States, tribal, and territorial governments are currently preparing applications for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The Code Council encourages jurisdictions to apply for this funding to strengthen their communities and is available for assistance in accessing these funds.

[Read more here](#) →

Three webinar sessions set to answer your BRIC questions

Don't hesitate to contact us at federalgrants@iccsafe.org for additional information on BRIC and developing your grant application as well as past examples of success code department applications. People with questions can participate in office hours with **ICC BRIC specialist Stella Carr**. Please register and submit questions in advance for the sessions below:

- Session 1: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:00 PM | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) - [Register here](#)
- Session 2: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:00 PM | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) - [Register here](#)
- Session 3: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 1:00 PM | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) - [Register here](#)

Questions about the BRIC program can be directed to your [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) or [FEMA Regional Office](#). **See the BRIC memo at the end of this newsletter.**

UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR

[ICC Leadership Week + 2025 Committee Action Hearings – Group B #1](#)
April 27 – May 6, 2025
Doubletree at the entrance to Universal Orlando, FL

[2025 Annual Conference, Expo & Committee Action Hearings – Group B #2](#)
October 19–30, 2025
Huntington Convention Center
Cleveland, OH

Get to know John Belcik, the Code Council's new Chief Executive Officer

The International Code Council's new organizational leader, John Belcik, began his new role as Chief Executive Officer as of January 1. In Part 1 of our 2-part series, the **Building Safety Journal** spoke with Belcik to learn more about him on a personal level. Part 2, which will be published in the coming months, will focus on Belcik's vision for the Code Council and the path ahead.

[Read more here](#) →

March 15 is the deadline to submit nominees for ICC's prestigious awards

Each year the International Code Council provides an opportunity for individuals to recognize their colleagues and peers for the important work they do by highlighting their achievements in leadership, innovation and community service. Don't miss the chance to recognize the outstanding efforts of an individual or group who serves the building safety industry and works to support the mission of the Code Council. Who's making a difference, going above and beyond, or moving the industry forward? We want to hear from you! The 2025 Code Council Awards Program nomination period closes March 15. [Submit your nominations](#) today.

[Read more here](#) →

Public comments sought until March 14 on Group A code change proposals

The International Code Council is now accepting public comments on the 2024 Group A cycle International Code® (I-Code) change proposals, with the submission deadline set for 11:59 p.m. PT on March 14. To submit public comments for the Group A I-Codes, please visit [cdpACCESS](#). For a proposal to be eligible for public comment it must have had a comment acted upon at the Committee Action Hearing #2 this past October. For the proposals open for public comment, you can review the Report on Committee Action Hearing #2 at this [link](#). The public comments will be heard jointly with public comments from the Group B cycle April 19-28, 2026.

[Read more here](#) →

Application period ends February 21 for Code of Honor Scholarships

Governmental Member Voting Representatives (GMVR) can apply for a Code of Honor Scholarship to support their attendance at the 2025 Committee Action Hearings for Group B #1. This opportunity is an exclusive member benefit that supports professional development and encourages participation in the code development process. Scholarships are available for multiple categories and can be used to cover travel and lodging expenses to attend the Orlando hearings. For more details on eligibility and application requirements, and to apply, [click here](#). The application deadline is February 21.

[Read more here](#) →

Colorado joins four other states in adopting ICC/MBI Standards 1200/1205

The International Code Council's and Modular Building Institute's (MBI) Standards 1200, 1205 and 1210, as well as *Guideline 6: A Guideline on Advanced Panelization* became effective recently in the state of Colorado. Colorado is the second state to adopt *ICC/MBI 1210 Standard for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation in Off-site Construction* and the first to adopt Guideline 6. The state joins Virginia, Utah, Montana and Rhode Island in adopting ICC/MBI Standards 1200 and 1205 for off-site construction.

[Read more here](#) →

Register for free for 2025 Leadership Week + Committee Action Hearings

Applications are being accepted for Code Council members wanting to attend the popular Chapter Leadership Academy set for April 25–26 in Orlando, Florida. The Chapter Leadership Academy is a key event of the [2025 Leadership Week + Committee Action Hearings](#). This unique experience offers chapter officers the opportunity to build leadership skills, collaborate with peers and share best practices to benefit their chapters. Your chapter may qualify for a complimentary Academy registration and reimbursement for travel and accommodations for an officer. offer Code Council members the opportunity to earn CEUs, connect with colleagues, discuss important industry topics, share experiences and make an impact on code safety. Key events include:

- **Leadership Forum and Keynote Speaker** ▶ April 26
- **Building Safety Month Reception** ▶ April 26
- **Membership Council Meetings** ▶ April 27
- **Committee Action Hearings for Group B #1** ▶ April 27–May 6

[Read more here](#) →

'When Disaster Strikes Institutes' trains local officials to plan and respond

The Code Council's **When Disaster Strikes Institute** prepares attendees to plan for, respond to and evaluate damage to our built environment after a disaster. Participants learn the various roles of the fire marshal, code official and floodplain manager in the wake of a disaster, techniques on how to operate within disaster environments, and

how to perform and/or coordinate Initial and Preliminary Damage Assessments, Post-Disaster Building Safety Evaluations, and Substantial Damage Estimating. The Institute also provides a means of maintaining your When Disaster Strikes Certificate of Learning Achievement. The WDS Institute Consists of Six Different Training Programs:

1. Disaster Planning for the Building Department
2. Mutual Aid & DRRR 1206
3. Preliminary Damage Assessment
4. When Disaster Strikes – Evaluator
5. When Disaster Strikes – Coordinator
6. When Disaster Strikes – Refresher

Having a disaster plan and properly trained staff will enable building departments to rapidly and accurately perform initial and preliminary damage assessments, commence post-disaster building safety evaluations, and efficiently deal with increased permit intake, plans review and accompanying construction inspections. All of which will result in a faster and stronger recovery for communities. For information contact ICC Training at icctraining@iccsafe.org.

[Read more here](#) →

Clark County, Washington, is leading the nation on using virtual inspections

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, few considered the idea of virtual inspections. It seemed like a foreign concept for an industry that had developed and established a successful set of procedures to ensure the safety and compliance of new building construction, modifications, and renovations. But long before stay-at-home orders and social distancing became the norm, Jim Muir, former Building Official for [Clark County, Washington](#), saw the potential in conducting inspections virtually. The idea came about when one of his inspectors, Boyd, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2012. Boyd was an incredibly dedicated inspector and wanted to continue working while on light duty, so Muir suggested that he remain in the office and conduct re-inspections over FaceTime video calls. There were some initial objections, but Muir wasn't deterred. He pushed for solutions to every possible obstacle and was determined to give Htry his best to make it work.

[Read more here](#) →

LaPorte, Texas, adopts the 2024 I-Codes to advance building safety

The City Council of La Porte, Texas, demonstrated its commitment to advancing building safety and enhancing community resilience by voting to adopt the International Code Council's [2024 International Codes®](#) (I-Codes). This move includes the adoption of the:

- [International Plumbing Code®](#)
- [International Mechanical Code®](#)
- [International Fuel Gas Code®](#)
- [International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®](#)

Notably, for the first time, La Porte is also adopting the [International Property Maintenance Code®](#) and the [International Existing Building Code®](#) (IEBC).

"The La Porte City Council has proactively advanced building safety by upgrading from the 2018 I-Codes to the 2024 I-Codes, reaffirming the city's commitment to adopting the latest construction and safety standards," said Assistant City Manager Matt Daeumer.

[Read more here](#) →

CALL FOR COMMITTEE: ICC 825, Private Sewage Disposal Systems

The International Code Council is currently seeking additional contractors, engineers, code officials, academics, manufacturers, health authority experts and other industry stakeholders to volunteer for a Code Council committee to assist in the progress of a standard currently in development. This committee has primary responsibility for the development of the global standard, ICC 825, Private Sewage Disposal Systems, which will provide minimum requirements for designing, constructing, operating and maintaining private sewage disposal systems that include septic tank and effluent absorption systems, or other treatment tank and effluent disposal systems, where a public sewer is not available.

[Read more here](#) →

Deadline to submit Annual Conference presentation proposals is March 17

The International Code Council is seeking training proposals focused on educational, technical and practical topics spanning the entire spectrum of building safety, fire and life safety, administration, enforcement and construction. The Code Council's Training Department has multiple opportunities for our members, clients and partners to share their expertise with the broader Code Council community via select training opportunities, which include:

- In-Person: Annual Conference Training Session (90-minutes)
- In-Person: Annual Conference Trade Show (30-minutes)
- Online Live: Learn Live Series (weekly, 90-minutes)
- Online Self-Paced: Strategically Targeted Topics (varying lengths as appropriate)

Presentation proposals can be submitted throughout the year, but please note, for proposals to be considered for the 2025 Annual Conference, the submission deadline is March 17.

[Read more here](#) →

San Diego Chapter champions Military Families Career Path Program

Those with military service skill sets are ideally suited to the building safety profession, sharing traits like organization, commitment, attention to detail, technical knowledge, experience with teamwork and a strong work ethic. San Diego is home to multiple military installations, including more than 115,000 active-duty service members and 230,000 military veterans. The San Diego Code Council Chapter is promoting the [Military Families Career Path Program](#) focusing on building safety career opportunities.

[Read more here](#) →

Code Council launches Learn Live Subscription Plan to fit busy schedules

The International Code Council recently announced its launch of the ICC Learn Live Subscription Plan, an ultimate resource for live, online learning designed to fit busy schedules. The ICC Learn Live subscription plan will bring 60-90 minute live online courses every Wednesday at noon CT. You'll learn from trusted Code Council staff, regional teaching members and partner organization representatives. These sessions cover a wide array of topics, including building safety, fire and life safety, administration, enforcement, construction and emerging trends in the industry. With ICC Learn Live, professionals holding Code Council Certifications can easily meet their Continuing Education Units (CEU) requirements during lunch from the convenience of their home or office.

[Read more here](#) →

GOT PULSE? Podcast puts the focus on AI in building safety industry

In this episode of the [ICC Pulse Podcast](#), we explore the intersection of artificial intelligence and building safety, highlighting its implications for enhancing risk prediction and prevention, real-time monitoring, maintenance and inspection. Featuring guest experts, the discussion covers traditional building safety methods, the application of AI in the industry, emerging technologies, standardizing AI and overcoming challenges to implementation. Guests are:

- Joan O'Neil, Chief Knowledge Officer, International Code Council
- Ed Cilurso, Project lead on AI Navigator, International Code Council
- Jason Matusow, Microsoft General Manager, Corporate Standards Group

Listen to Episode 57 of the ICC Pulse Podcast, ***The I-Codes Go AI: How Artificial Intelligence is Enhancing Building Safety***, [here](#).

ICC Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Updates

Program institutes regulations to maximize the reclamation of HFCs

December 10, 2024, marked the beginning of the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's](#) (EPA) [Emissions Reduction and Reclamation \(ER&R\) Program](#) for some hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants and their substitutes. The ER&R program is the latest in a series of programs that the EPA has enacted under the authority of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 (AIM Act) to handle HFC refrigerants. This program institutes regulations to maximize the reclamation of HFCs and their substitutes having a GWP (global warming potential) above certain limits; it also intends to minimize the release of HFCs from certain equipment. The program encompasses not only the refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps sectors but also the fire suppression sector.

[Read more here](#) →

Video series addresses different aspects of transition to A2L refrigerants

For the final video in our eight-part series on A2L refrigerants, Samantha Slater, Sr. Vice President of Government Affairs at the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, discusses A2L refrigerants and their flammability. [Watch this video by clicking here](#). The International Code Council has resources available to learn more about A2L Refrigerants, [visit the webpage here](#). [Visit here for background information](#) on A2L refrigerants. Here links to the other videos in this eight-part series from ICC and our industry partners to address some of the different aspects of the resulting transition to A2L refrigerants that are important for building inspectors, code officials and contractors:

Part 7 – [Where to Find Training Resources for A2L Refrigerants](#)

Part 6 – [The Basics of Handling A2L Refrigerants](#)

Part 5 – [Restrictions on A2L Refrigerant Use](#)

Part 4 – [Preparing for A2Ls: What Building Inspectors, Code Officials, and Contractors Need to Know](#)

Part 3 – [Changes to Codes and Standards Addressing A2L Refrigerants](#)

Part 2 – [A2L Refrigerant Transition Timeline for 2024 and 2025](#)

Part 1 – [An Overview of A2L Refrigerants](#)

MEMO TO ICC MEMBERS: Navigating Current Federal Grants Policies

On January 27 and 28, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memo and [follow up guidance](#) pausing federal financial assistance while OMB works to ensure that future disbursements are consistent with the policies articulated in Executive Orders President Trump issued during his first days in office.

These Executive Orders include those reversing Biden Administration policies on diversity, equity and inclusion; environmental justice; electrification and electric vehicles incentives; and appliance efficiency standards.

These actions put an immediate pause on grant funding through the Department of Energy's (DOE) Resilience and Efficient Codes Initiative (RECI) and Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes program. OMB issued a subsequent memo on January 29, rescinding its prior federal funding freeze guidance; this latest action does not affect the DOE programs, which were directly addressed in an [Executive Order](#). On January 31, the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island issued a Temporary Restraining Order that prohibits federal agencies from taking actions on funding programs on the basis of the Executive Orders of OMB memos.

Agencies may still withhold funding, but they may only do so pursuant to their existing authorities. Implications for existing and pending awards are uncertain and will vary depending on the issuing authority.

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

As of this writing, the effect on disbursement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) awards and the currently open Notice of Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2024 BRIC funding is unclear.

The BRIC program, which was established and implemented during President Trump's first term, continues to be a significant opportunity for communities to secure resources for resilience, building safety and the advancement of modern, hazard-resistant building codes.

While the BRIC program will continue to evolve with the current Administration's priorities, it is important that states, tribes, territories, counties and jurisdictions that are considering applying for BRIC continue [preparing your application](#) so that it is ready for submittal:

1. Continue gathering documentation, preparing applications and meeting state deadlines associated with the FY24 BRIC NOFO.
2. Reach out to your State Hazard Mitigation Officer for guidance or clarification as needed regarding deadlines and state specific reviews.
3. Stay connected with the International Code Council for updates—we are committed to keeping you informed.

Please join us by registering for one of our upcoming Q&A sessions with Code Council grant specialist Stella Carr:

- Session 1: Wednesday, February 12, 3:00 PM | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) - [Register here](#).
- Session 2: Wednesday, February 19, 2:00 PM | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) - [Register here](#).
- Session 3: Wednesday, February 26, 1:00 PM | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) - [Register here](#).

The implications of the Executive Orders and OMB guidance are dynamic, with possible future changes stemming from expected additional Executive Orders, further OMB guidance and court decisions. Many Code Council members and communities have utilized or plan to utilize federal resources through affected programs. The Code Council will continue to support you in your efforts as we work with the Trump Administration on the best paths forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Stella Carr, Energy and Resilience Project Manager, International Code Council. We are here to support you in our shared work toward a safe and resilient future. More information about BRIC program can be found, [here](#).