

Monthly Update

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Now is the time to plan for your community's 2025 Building Safety Month events

Educate your communities and raise the profile of code professionals during May's Building Safety Month by planning ahead. The [Code Council has tools to help you](#) do it. Your state, tribal or local jurisdiction officials can [sign a proclamation and send it](#) in to ICC. Put pictures and your message [on social media and in the news](#). [Bring handouts and fun items](#) for displays, [schools](#) and public presentations. Check out [these printable items](#) you can use and distribute. [Download the 2025 poster](#) and [other artwork](#). Access tip sheets for [in-person events](#) and [webinar event presentations](#). Let's celebrate together and share our experiences by using this hashtag **#BuildingSafetyMonth2025** on social media. Open the links here and start brainstorming. And be sure to check back often for updated pages and resources!

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

- 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](#) →

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

**Huntington Convention Center
Cleveland, OH**

FROM NAHB: 2024 IRC offers lower building costs

The 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) offers home builders more compliance paths and lower building costs compared to the 2021 IECC, according to a cost analysis by Home Innovation Research Labs (HIRL). This analysis followed an earlier HIRL analysis on the 2024 IRC that found “no cost impact or even a cost savings for new homes compared to the 2021 codes.” The Department of Energy (DOE) had previously issued a determination on the 2024 IECC showing that it will provide a 6.6 percent energy cost savings over the 2021 IECC, meaning the 2024 version is also better for energy conservation. NAHB staff and members served on the 2024 IECC Residential consensus committee to ensure that builder's interests were well represented, and affordable homeownership was at the forefront of committee deliberations. Following the DOE's determination, several jurisdictions have started reviewing the 2024 IECC for adoption.

[Read more here](#) →

Public comment sought until March 14 on Group A updates

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](#) →

WICED observes Women in Construction Week with Lunch & Learn events

It's [national Women in Construction Week](#) this week, and the Code Council's friends in Women in Code Enforcement and Development (WICED) are celebrating by hosting one-hour Lunch & Learn sessions on Wednesday, March 5, and Thursday, March 6, starting at noon Eastern. The Wednesday presenter is [Kristy Higaes](#), Director of Development for the Girls Garage, and the Thursday presenter is [Samantha Pearce](#), Vice President of Sustainability for New York State Homes and Communities Renewal. [Register here at the WICED website.](#)

Second annual World Water Awareness effort aims to combat global crisis

Water is a fundamental human need, yet billions of people around the world lack access to safe and clean water – and the situation is projected to worsen in the years to come. According to the [World Health Organization](#), it is estimated that around 2 billion people do not have reliable access to safely managed drinking water and 3.6 billion people lack adequate sanitation services. To help solve the global water and sanitation crisis, the International Code Council's [World Water Awareness campaign](#), which takes place annually in March, aims to raise awareness about the water crisis and our collective responsibility to address it through long-term, consistent water conservation efforts. This campaign includes information and resources, including in-depth articles on water conservation initiatives and the advantages of using the International Codes® (I-Codes) to combat water scarcity, that will help guide decision-makers in managing limited natural resources on a global scale. Also, [don't miss this University of Miami report detailing water conservation savings from the International Water Conservation Code Provisions \(IWCCP\)®](#). The Code Council will also be hosting a series of virtual [events](#) to educate individuals and decision-makers on the water crisis and how codes and standards are crucial for sustainable water management.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC-ES provides specialized support to accelerate Los Angeles' rebuilding

In response to the devastating wildfires that have impacted Los Angeles County, ICC Evaluation Service ([ICC-ES](#)) is stepping up to support the community's rebuilding efforts with specialized certification programs and services. These initiatives aim to help manufacturers and city officials streamline approvals and meet critical rebuilding timelines. With decades of expertise in product certification and a long-standing relationship with the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), ICC-ES is uniquely positioned to support the community in its recovery. As a qualified certification body known for its rigorous evaluation process and commitment to safety, ICC-ES has a thorough understanding of Los Angeles' specific building code requirements and can help manufacturers navigate the approval process with the LADBS.

[Read more here](#) →

California adopts the 2024 IWUIC to address escalating wildfire risks

The State of California last week adopted the 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code® (IWUIC®) as the basis for Title 24, Part 7, *2025 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code* to address escalating wildfire risks, enhance fire resilience with science-based standards, and set the benchmark for safer, more sustainable communities in fire-prone areas. California's adoption of the 2024 IWUIC is the result of a multi-year collaboration between the CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal, the California Fire Prevention Officers (CAL FPOs), California Building Officials (CALBO), the International Code Council (ICC), the California Building Industry Association (CBIA), and wildfire stakeholders culminating with rulemaking by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC). "Today marks a milestone that represents the hard work of many to update and modernize Wildland-Urban Interface building codes," said California State Fire Marshal Daniel Berlant. "While these aren't necessarily new requirements, it's a reorganization of many sections into a singular code with the goal of making it easier for local officials to ensure that new homes and buildings built in wildfire-prone areas have an increased chance of surviving a wildfire."

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Board approves policy changes related to codes and standards

At its February 5 meeting, the International Code Council Board of Directors (ICC Board) approved changes to Council Policies related to codes and standards development. These changes are part of the Code Council's commitment to continuous improvement of its codes and standards development processes and reflect feedback from various stakeholders.

[Read more here](#) →

Get your Code Council 2025 Committee Action Hearings schedule here

The International Codes® (I-Codes) — developed by the International Code Council — are a family of 15 coordinated, modern building safety codes that help ensure the design and construction of safe, sustainable and affordable structures. Participation in the Code Council's Code Development Process is vital to the development of the codes that protect communities across the world. The schedule for the 2025 Committee Action Hearings (CAH #1) Group B is now available [here](#). The 2025 CAH #1 begins Sunday, April 27, and is open to the public. It will take

place during ICC Leadership Week, an event that offers Code Council members the opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and network with other building safety professionals.

[Read more here](#) →

NIST shares progress update on the Surfside (Florida) condo investigation

From fires and natural disasters to other unanticipated events, when buildings fail, both people and property are at risk. One of the most notable [recent tragedies](#) occurred in June 2021 when a 12-story condominium complex in Surfside, Florida, partially collapsed, claiming the lives of 98 people. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has spent almost four years investigating what happened at the complex to determine the cause and minimize the risk of future tragedies. NIST shared with Congress an [update](#) about its investigation, noting that it has completed all experimental work on the physical evidence. The Code Council is finishing Guideline 7, **The Existing Building Condition Assessment Guideline**, to help building departments visually assess the integrity of existing buildings. The guideline will be the draft document for the standard committee to develop the ICC 1500 standard. A code change proposal, based on the guideline, has been submitted for consideration in April.

[Read more here](#) →

Developers benefit financially, aesthetically from creative uses of the IEBC

The [International Existing Building Code®](#) (IEBC) is readily available to building departments and municipalities that are looking to use and reuse offices, hospitals, apartments and other structures. However, many building officials have grown accustomed to using the [International Building Code®](#) (IBC) and [International Residential Code®](#) (IRC) and may not realize the advantages, including the potential cost savings, that the IEBC provides. John Curley, Chief Development Services Officer for the [Development Services Department](#) of the City of Aurora, IL, has adopted and successfully used the IEBC to breathe new life into the city's main street buildings. Curley explains to both designers and owners how it could be leveraged for their rehabilitation projects. "We've had owners walk away from those meetings saying, 'Hey, I think you just saved us a quarter of a million dollars,'" said Curley. "Without the IEBC, that project would not have occurred. That's probably true for half a dozen main street buildings in our downtown."

[Read more here](#) →

Award recipients recall the evolution of permit techs and their work duties

The second annual [W. Scott Copp Chapter Leadership Award](#) recipients are [Dawn Neil](#), Permit Technician for the Township of Bernards in Basking Ridge, NJ, and [Cindi Somers](#), retired Permit Technician for the city of Richland, WA. This honor celebrates the memory of W. Scott Copp who had dedicated his career to advancing building safety at all governmental I levels. Neil and Somers have been promoting Permit Technicians for over two decades in New Jersey, Washington State and via [PermitTechNation](#) (PTN), where Neil is the current treasurer and committee member. She's also president of the [New Jersey Association of Technical Assistants](#). Somers is the past president of PTN and the [Washington State Association of Permit Technicians](#) and is currently a PTN board member and education liaison.

[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](#) →

Mentorship Program is a great opportunity for veteran & new code officials

The Code Council Mentorship Program is a win-win for both mentors and mentees. Mentors can give back, learn from their mentees, and build a talent pipeline. Mentees can gain confidence, catch a glimpse into future career options, and get expert help with their next steps from one of 50+ mentors currently waiting to advise them. The Mentorship Program is a free member benefit easily accessible through the Member Community online platform.

- ✓ **Find a mentor.** - Gain invaluable insights from a seasoned industry professional to accelerate your professional development and growth, expand your personal and professional network and cultivate interpersonal, communication and leadership skills.
- ✓ **Be a mentor.** Help shape the future of our industry by sharing your expertise with someone new to building safety, or someone looking to take the next step in their career.

[Read more here](#) →

FIRST OF SERIES: Code officials are unsung heroes of building safety

Code enforcement officers are the unsung heroes of the building safety industry. While people may understand the need for permits and inspections, many are not aware of the important work that code enforcement officers do in communities all across the country. Their job goes above and beyond tall grass and abandoned cars. As building safety professionals, they have the ability to serve and protect their towns in a way that no other can. “We have eyes on everything,” said Rachel Patterson, Senior Code Enforcement Officer for the [City of Westminster](#), Colorado and Vice President of the International Code Council’s Colorado Chapter. She said it’s important to understand the role of code enforcement in a community because it is the key to everything else. “A good code enforcement officer knows the resources for the things that the community needs,” Patterson added. “When they’re out there enforcing code and they come across someone who doesn’t have a furnace or water heater, or running water, a code enforcement officer is typically there to bridge that gap in providing the resources. They are really that lifeline and key to better solutions for the community.”

[Read more here](#) →

Jamaica Standards Body’s code modernization emphasizes resilient future

Established in 2012, the International Code Council’s [Global Award](#) recognizes individuals or organizations who go the extra mile to promote building safety worldwide and support the Code Council’s global mission. This year, the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) was honored for its comprehensive efforts to modernize and integrate building codes while simultaneously educating individuals on the codes. As an agency of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, the BSJ provides standards testing, training, trade support and consumer information. It is governed by a 14-member Standards Council appointed by the Minister. In recent years, with help from global and local government funding, the organization set out to fully update its building codes to support more sustainable, resilient structures. To facilitate this transition, the BSJ went beyond providing piecemeal building safety regulations and sought a complete update to its full suite of codes, along with important educational and training programs to raise awareness and drive compliance.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Updates

Breaking barriers and building futures: Women in the plumbing industry

A diverse workforce fosters innovation, creativity and problem-solving—essential qualities in the plumbing industry, where every job presents unique challenges. When plumbing companies embrace diversity, they can better serve a broader client base, understanding and addressing the needs of a wide range of customers. Over the years, the industry has been evolving, with more women entering the field and bringing fresh perspectives and skills. To further this positive trend, it is essential to continue attracting and supporting women in plumbing. These three professionals—from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia—are at different stages in their careers, offering a well-rounded view of the industry today. Each of these professionals took different paths into the industry, but they all share a common experience: a lack of awareness about plumbing as a career option during high school. They emphasize the importance of exposing young people to opportunities in the trades and encouraging parents to support diverse career paths.

[Read more here](#) →

Pipe sizing challenges in system designs worsening in post-COVID era

System designs, along with the products that are utilized for plumbing systems, have changed dramatically since the 1940s, but modern systems are still frequently designed using research that’s more than 80 years old. This has resulted in new pipe sizing challenges that have worsened following the COVID-19 pandemic, with more people now working from home and placing additional strain on plumbing systems. The need for change goes beyond how, when, and where people work. Today’s buildings have been constructed with a multitude of advancements that increase energy and water efficiency and improve the overall user experience. Despite this, the approach to pipe sizing has remained largely the same. It’s a global issue that requires a global solution.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Family of Solutions Updates

QUICK CONSULT: Professional opinions provided within 2 business days.

ICC recently introduced [Premium Answers Quick Consult](#) – a new paid service that provides code interpretations from ICC tech services within 2 business days. This fast, personalized service provides expert opinions on ICC codes, clarifying compliance requirements or addressing unique challenges:

1. **Expert Guidance:** Access industry-leading experts for code opinions you can trust.

2. **Personalized Answers:** Receive responses tailored to your unique questions and project needs. Our experts will provide a professional opinion of how the codes apply to your specific circumstances.
3. **Fast Responses:** Get answers within two business days, keeping your projects on schedule.

[Read more here](#) →

Stay on top of your professional development with Learn Live subscription

Are you looking for an easy and flexible way to earn your Continuing Education Units (CEUs)? With the ICC Learn Live subscription plan, launched last month, you can stay on top of your professional development from the comfort of your home or office. Every Wednesday at noon Central Time, ICC Learn Live delivers a live, 90-minute online course featuring a variety of topics essential to your work. These sessions are led by knowledgeable instructors, including Code Council staff, regional teaching members and representatives from our partner organizations.

[Read more here](#) →