

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



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'Insight Sessions' offer CEUs on emerging building safety topics October 9 at 2023 Annual Conference
Code Council Government Relations will host a series of emerging building safety topics (with CEUs!) called "Insight Sessions" at the 2023 ICC Annual Conference in St. Louis. The program, formerly known as the "GR Forum," has been folded into these Insight Sessions:

11:30 AM: Meet your Government Relations and Energy, Resiliency & Innovation Center of Focus Teams

11:35 – 11:55 AM: Reinspection of Existing Building Program & ICC Existing Building Guideline

- Dottie Mazzarella, *Vice President of Government Relations*
- Kevin McOsker, *Vice President of Technical Services, Government Relations*

11:55 – 12:15 PM: Developments in Offsite Construction: Role of Codes and Standards

- Ryan Colker, *Vice President of Energy, Resilience, and Innovation Center of Focus*

12:25 – 12:45 PM: Batteries and Energy Storage Systems

- Karl Fippinger, *Vice President of Fire and Disaster Mitigation, Government Relations*

12:45 – 1:05 PM: Discussion on Legislative Opportunities and Challenges

- Lesley Garland, *Vice President of State and Local Relations, Government Relations*
- Tim Schmitz, *Regional Director, Government Relations*
- Stephen Jones, *Regional Director, Government Relations*

1:05 – 1:20 PM: Addressing Extreme Heat in Codes and Standards

- Lesley Garland, *Vice President of State and Local Relations*
- Kevin McOsker, *Vice President of Technical Services, Government Relations*

1:30 – 2:30 PM: U.S. Federal Funding Forum – Introduction by Aaron Davis, *Vice President, Federal Relations, Government Relations, International Code Council*, with presentations and Q&A by HUD, FEMA, and DOE

GOT DCP? Then, we want your feedback! Please share your thoughts on Digital Codes Premium

A growing number of construction building code stakeholders are enjoying the benefits of Digital Codes Premium's online resources since the platform was introduced. ICC Government Relations staff are focused on facilitating the digital transition, and we want to know how what's working and what we can improve. [Please share your experience and insight with us here](#). Thank you in advance for being a DCP subscriber and providing your feedback. Also, if you have further questions/suggestions, email Philip Anthony Graczyk, panthony@iccsafe.org. Not a DCP subscriber yet? Start your free [14-day Trial](#)!

2024 I-Code changes facilitate compliance with transitioning to lower-GWP solutions such as A2Ls

In late 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a rule implementing legislation that mandates an 85 percent nationwide phasedown in hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants by 2036. The International Code Council, in collaboration with the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, partnering with building safety professionals to help navigate this transition. Approved code changes in the 2024 International Building Code (IBC), International Fire Code (IFC) and International Mechanical Code (IMC) enable the safe use of A2L refrigerants to replace higher global warming potential (GWP) HFC refrigerants. [Read more here](#).

IT'S A MUST-READ: Study connects cities' preparedness for dangerous weather with current codes

The newspaper Arizona Republic recently explained results of its study selecting 40 communities in parts of Arizona with major population hubs and economically important regions, and analyzing building code documents to measure how effectively and which codes are adopted and enforced. The study also screened codes for mention of climate risk, water conservation, energy efficiency, air quality standards, flood prevention and stormwater control, architectural or tree shade requirements, encouragement of construction with sustainable materials, wildfire precautions and natural habitat protections. Mandatory

or voluntary adoption of the latest versions of the IECC, IgCC, IWUIC, solar energy provisions and additional standards that elevated environmental protection and sustainable designs influenced scores. [Read more here](#). The news article and series were written by [reporter Joan Meiners](#).

SCIENTIFIC AMERICA editorial recommends greater adoption of and implementation of current codes to protect residents and minimize disaster recovery costs

The magazine SCIENTIFIC AMERICA recently posted its eye-opening editorial that makes the case for updated building codes as a major factor in life safety and the endurance of buildings in natural disasters: “Homebuilders and policymakers have raised concerns that stronger codes would raise home prices. But no study has reliably shown that, and several have shown no effect. Moore, Okla., updated its codes after a devastating 2011 tornado outbreak but did not see an appreciable difference in home costs compared with nearby Norman, which did not enact an updated code, according to a 2018 study. And relatively small increases in up-front costs are recouped through savings in insurance premiums, energy use and averted damage. A sealed roof deck that keeps rain out when shingles are blown off may add to the immediate cost of a new house, but it is far cheaper than replacing a roof and water-damaged floors and belongings.” [Read more here](#).

Recent op-eds by NAHB’s Matt Belcher reviews benefits of adopting ICC/MBA Standards 1200/1205

Governing magazine and the Seattle Times recently published op-eds from Matt Belcher, the chairman of NAHB’s Building Systems Councils, explaining the benefits of adopting the ICC/MBI Standards 1200/1205 and off-site construction. To see the op-eds, please visit: [A Unique Opportunity to Address the Affordable-Housing Crisis: Off-Site Construction and To ease housing crisis, remove barriers to off-site construction](#).

It's September which means it's time to make sure your three-year certifications are still current

Code Council certifications are valid for three years and certificates must be renewed on or before the expiration date (when they become inactive) to be current. To renew your certification, you must first earn Continuing Education Units by participating in continuing education and professional development activities. To make this an easier process, [you may want to watch this brief video now](#).

Code Council launches global capacity building initiative to help communities realize benefits of codes

In response to the continued demand for new solutions, the International Code Council has introduced the Building Capacity for Resilient and Sustainable Buildings initiative. This initiative emphasizes the importance of effective building regulatory systems to ensure that the intended benefits of building regulations are achieved. The Code Council aims to help global communities reach their resilience and decarbonization goals by providing resources and tools to support the effective enforcement of building codes. It calls on governments, corporations and organizations to assist countries in developing, adopting and implementing energy and hazard-resistant codes. [Read more here](#).

Recent study examines the influence of building codes on mortgage delinquency after hurricanes

According to the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA), one of the most cost-effective ways to safeguard citizens and communities against disasters is to [adopt and follow hazard-resistant building codes](#), such as the [International Building Code®](#) (IBC) and [International Residential Code®](#) (IRC). Understanding that building codes could help mitigate physical damage during a landfalling hurricane, the [Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety](#) (IBHS) and [CoreLogic®](#) also investigated if this risk management strategy could be used to help mitigate financial losses. [Read more here](#).

PRO Housing grant helps to remove barriers that impede the usage of affordable housing options

The lack of affordable housing has become an escalating concern for communities nationwide. In response, the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) has introduced the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) grant. The PRO Housing grant is a congressionally supported initiative to support communities actively taking steps to remove barriers that impede the creation and preservation of affordable housing options. HUD will make \$85 million in competitive grant funding available. Eligible applicants include local and state governments, metropolitan planning organizations and multi-jurisdictional entities. Eligible usage includes proposals to:

- Streamline and modernize local permit processing, such as enabling one-stop or parallel-process permitting.
- Leverage building codes to facilitate more affordable housing or otherwise reduce construction costs, including adopting or modifying model codes and standards (e.g., the adoption of the [ICC/MBI standards to facilitate off-site construction](#) or the [International Existing Building Code®](#) to ease reuse and repurposing of existing infrastructure).
- Address zoning and land use controls that limit housing development (e.g., by adopting the [International Zoning Code®](#)).
- Harmonize land-use policies or building codes among adjoining municipalities and facilitate consistent regional development standards that streamline housing development.

[Read more here.](#)



LEARN MORE ABOUT FEDERAL GRANTS: Insight Session set for 3:15 p.m. October 12 in St. Louis

The Code Council hosted a webinar on August 15 about the Federal Emergency Management Administration’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. If you were not able to attend the webinar, [click here to view the recording](#) (password: Kj3XZSma). Panelists included Angie Wiese, St. Paul, Minn.; Paul Demers, State of Maine; Alex Olszowy III from Lexington, Ky. Also, join us in St. Louis for the **Grant Basics for Code Officials training** at the 2023 International Code Council’s Annual Conference and Expo on Tuesday, October 10, at 3:15 p.m., featuring Stella Carr, ICC Energy and Resilience Project Manager. *CEU credits will be offered for this training session.*



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

Code Council Unveils 2024 International Plumbing Code and 2024 International Mechanical Code

The International Code Council has announced the release of the 2024 International Plumbing Code (IPC) and the 2024 International Mechanical Code (IMC) from the forthcoming 2024 editions of the International Codes® (I-Codes). The 2024 IPC and IMC will be the first codes among the 2024 I-Codes to undergo substantial formatting changes to improve the user experience and better align print and PDF versions of the [I-Codes with the Code Council’s Digital Codes® content](#). The 2024 IPC improves public health through enhanced waste management requirements and plumbing system resilience to natural hazards. It also advances community sustainability through new water conservation measures, while assuring building accessibility through the integration of the updated ICC A117.1 Accessibility Standard, making the IPC the most comprehensive plumbing code available. [Read more here.](#)

Insight Session #1 in St. Louis focuses on challenges and opportunities today’s plumbing industry faces

Explore the challenges, roadblocks, and opportunities that plumbing professionals face in today’s rapidly evolving built environment during the [Insight Sessions Monday, October 9](#), during the 2023 ICC Annual

Conference in St. Louis. Hear from experts involved in different aspects of the plumbing industry about what they're facing and about best practices in safety, the codes, new technologies, and more.

Moderator: Matthew Winn, *Senior Vice President of Training*

Panelists:

- Matt Sigler, *Executive Director of PMG, International Code Council*
- Terry Smith, *Owner, American Plumbing*
- James A. Richardson Jr., *CPD, Plumbing Inspection Supervisor, City of Columbus, Building and Zoning Services*
- Ned Dickey, *U.S. Product Compliance Manager, Hansgrohe*



ICC Evaluation Services updates

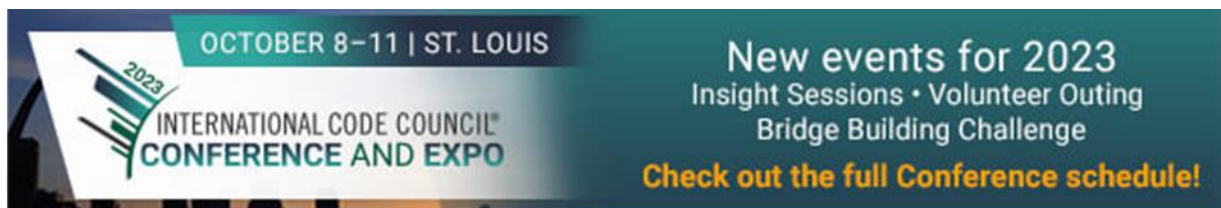
QuakeHOLD Industrial's earthquake fastening systems have been evaluated by ICC Evaluation Service
[QuakeHOLD Industrial](#) specializes in securing sensitive assets, focusing on life safety, asset protection, and work continuity. QuakeHOLD Seismic Restraint Fastening Systems restrain stainless steel nonstructural components from seismic forces by attachment to walls or floors with a non-penetration approach. QuakeHOLD Industrial's earthquake fastening systems have been evaluated by ICC Evaluation Service for structural and durability properties and comply with the International Building Code (IBC), California Building Code, and City of Los Angeles Building Code (LABC). **View ICC-ES ESR-4807 [here](#).**



ICC Community Development Solutions update

Access your ICC Codes directly in Muncity® ePermitting & Code Enforcement software

Muncity Code Connect™ allows organizations using Muncity 5 to instantly access the latest building code requirements within the digital application, which saves time and improves efficiency. The software contains simplified search tools, access to the latest code content, confidence in accuracy and the ability to streamline common code references. Muncity is the only ePermitting and Code Enforcement software from the International Code Council. To learn more, visit our [website](#) or join a [Muncity Overview Webinar](#) **September 7** at 1 p.m. ET / 10 a.m. PT.



[Click here to read all about the 2023 ICC Annual Conference and Expo at St. Louis!](#)