



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
May 10, 2004
www.iccsafe.org

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Building safety, disaster prevention the focus of International Code Council Spring Meeting

What: The International Code Council Spring Meeting in Overland Park features Code Hearings, Education Programs and an Expo

Why: Code changes resulting from hearings at the International Code Council meeting affect how homes and buildings in your community are constructed. Code officials, engineers, contractors and others involved in code development regularly update building safety and fire prevention codes to enhance public safety.

Story Ideas: One significant code change proposal stems from the 9/11 tragedy and would revise the fire resistance rating of high-rise buildings from two to three hours. Another proposal results from the Rhode Island nightclub fire and would require nightclubs and similar facilities to have sprinklers if the occupancy is more than 100 people instead of the current 300. Interview International Code Council President Anne vonWeller about the code change proposals.

Last May almost 400 tornados hit Kansas and 18 other states. The International Code Council and the National Storm Shelter Association are developing standards for the design and construction of storm shelters and safe rooms. International Code Council CEO and former FEMA Director James Lee Witt is available to talk about disaster-resistant construction.

Overland Park and Kansas City, Missouri, enforce the I-Codes. The International Building Code is used statewide in Kansas. Interview Overland Park Code Administrator and International Code Council Board Member Tim Ryan about local code activities.

Mold in homes and buildings has been linked to allergic reactions and serious illnesses, making it a growing concern around the nation. Architect Steven Bostwick specializes in forensic architectural investigation and is available to discuss building moisture issues.

To pre-schedule interviews, contact Public Relations Specialist Gretchen Hesbacher at 703-931-4533, ext. 240. During the meeting, contact Steve Dagers at 708-351-8880.

(MORE)

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Where: Sheraton Overland Park Hotel
6100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, Kansas

When: May 16-20, 2004
May 16, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Education Programs
May 16, 2-8 p.m., Expo
May 17-20, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily, Final Code Hearings

Who: James Lee Witt, a leading expert in disaster prevention and building safety and CEO of the International Code Council
Anne vonWeller, Chief Building Officer for Murray City, Utah, and President of the International Code Council
Tim Ryan, Overland Park Code Administrator and Board Member of the International Code Council

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