

## A STATEMENT ON CODE ADOPTION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

### *Saving Lives and Money through Implementation of Updated Codes*

- The International Codes are developed with several goals in mind: safeguard public health, safety and welfare and provide for the safety of firefighters/emergency responders.
- ICC's codes are drafted and updated by code officials and building professionals, meaning that cost-saving building innovations and new sustainable materials are incorporated into the codes as they are updated.
- Updated codes not only save lives but save money:
  1. Codes enhance ***economic development*** thru the utilization of state-of-the art technology in materials research, design and construction practices, and risks/hazards to the public in buildings and structures.
  2. Codes ***streamline the building regulatory system*** through a single family of codes that brings consistency and compatibility to multiple layers of requirements existing at the international, federal, state and local levels.
  3. Building codes ***minimize long term costs***, meaning that when disaster strikes, building sustain less damage and the costs associated with rebuilding, lost productivity, human life - are minimized.
  4. Energy efficiency represents ***cost savings that pay for themselves*** several times over - and updating codes means achieving the latest standards in energy efficiency.
  5. Building and fire safety codes are a small price to pay when it comes to ***protecting the lives of loved ones***.

6. Water is becoming an increasingly scarce commodity, especially in rural and developing areas. Plumbing and green codes **ensure water isn't wasted**, saving on water bills and sparing needed infrastructure.
  7. Structures built to code are **built right the first time**. No costs for endless renovations or repairs, which often disrupt productivity in the home or workplace.
  8. Building to energy efficient and green codes can qualify both contractors and building owners for **special tax incentives**, often offsetting costs for improvements that are already money-saving long-term.
- Proposals to significantly modify the updating process are being championed by a few who feel that it has not served their interests. Complaints being raised about issues which a few interests have about a few provisions of one code must not result in adversely impacting the public protection afforded by the complete set of codes.
  - Any delay on code adoption after jurisdictional review has a negative impact on the ISO BCEGS ratings of communities. Delay also hinders the ability of designers and builders to take advantage of the latest technology, and for the safety, health and welfare of our citizens to be afforded protection based on the latest experience, knowledge and industry standards is fundamental.
  - An up-to-date code maintains compatibility with Federal laws and mandates, especially in the areas of energy conservation, accessibility and swimming pool safety.
  - Remember that the proposed updated codes consist of a *series* of codes which protect the public by regulating both commercial and residential buildings, and addresses not only fire protection and structural issues, but also electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems, as well as accessibility and energy conservation.

- ICC has been supportive of extensive review of code adoptions and mindful of the state's interest in a thorough analysis and amendment process.
- In at least one state, a cost-impact analysis of adopting the 2009 I-Codes proved to be neutral (Ohio).
- It is important to make the distinction that commercial codes do not impact residential home builders.