

## Steps to Success

# PROCLAMATION GUIDE



One way to gain recognition for your Building Safety Month event is to obtain an official proclamation from your mayor, commissioner or governor. Proclamations make a special event official and can help you increase awareness with your colleagues and the news media.

### 1. Identify the right person to assist with the proclamation – it may take time so start early!

- Identify the appropriate contact at least eight weeks in advance.
- Research online or in your local phone book for city or state government addresses and phone numbers to write or call for information on requesting a proclamation. If no one deals exclusively with proclamations, try a public relations or public information officer contact. An office manager or an aide/administrator might be able to help as well.
- Be prepared to highlight the significance of the event and its impact on people in the local area.

### 2. Ask questions!

- Do they want you to draft a proclamation ready for signature or do they want you to provide just the text for them to format in their style?
- Can you include in the proclamation the special naming of the day/date? For example, "In honor of building safety, I \_\_\_\_\_ (Mayor/ Commissioner/Governor) proclaim May 2020 as \_\_\_\_\_'s Building Safety Month, etc."
- Do they want a hard copy of the text, electronic copy or both? This year, jurisdictions can upload a proclamation to our website. [See instructions here.](#)
- Could you arrange a signing ceremony and invite media?

### 3. Draft the necessary documents and submit to the appropriate person.

- Draft the text for the proclamation using the Proclamation template provided on page 2 of this PDF or download the [Word version](#). (An International template is also available in [PDF](#) and [Word](#).)
- Draft a cover letter. Address the official using their title and name and explain that your chapter, the International Code Council's 64,000 members and building industry stakeholders across the country, are celebrating Building Safety Month.

- Include interesting facts and a brief description of the theme, the goals of increased public awareness, and your Building Safety Month plans. Ask for his/her help by proclaiming Building Safety Month for the city or state and include the draft proclamation for consideration. Close sincerely with name, credentials and title.
- Mail or hand deliver your cover letter, draft proclamation and support materials. Offer information that might be helpful to the politician – brochures, statistics or other items – which describe and explain strategies for building safe and sustainable structures.
- Once signed, pick up the proclamation in person to be sure it isn't damaged or lost in the mail. And you can personally thank the person who helped out.

### 4. Arrange a signing ceremony at the official's office and invite media.

A signing ceremony is a great way to get media to cover your event. Ask your contact if he/she can assist you in getting the mayor involved in the presentation of the proclamation or make an appearance at the event itself.

- Confirm all details, including whether or not media and photographers can attend.
- Be sure to ask your membership to attend – take photos and post them online using hashtag [#BuildingSafety365](#).
- Draft a one-page media alert with all event details and distribute to your local media. While print media may require more advanced notice, a television station may only need the media alert two or three days in advance. A follow up call is always a good idea.
- You can also upload a pdf of the proclamation to the Code Council website. [See details here.](#)

### 5. The Code Council is here to help!

Follow this guide to increase your success of getting a signed government proclamation. If you need assistance, contact [communications@iccsafe.org](mailto:communications@iccsafe.org).

*Presented by*





# *Proclamation*

**Building Safety Month — May, 2020**

Whereas, our (City, Town, County, State) is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and economic value of the homes, buildings and infrastructure that serve our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, and;

Whereas, our confidence in the structural integrity of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

Whereas, these guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council, a nonprofit that brings together local, state and federal officials that are experts in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work, play, and;

Whereas, our nation benefits economically and technologically from using the International Codes that are developed by a national, voluntary consensus codes and standards developing organization, our government is able to avoid the high cost and complexity of developing and maintaining these codes, which are the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the world;

Whereas, these modern building codes include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquake; which, according to a FEMA-commissioned study by the National Institute of Building Sciences, provide \$11 in future mitigation benefits for every dollar invested, and;

Whereas, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown protectors of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, efficient and livable buildings that are essential to America's prosperity, and;

Whereas, "Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World," the theme for Building Safety Month 2020, encourages all Americans to raise awareness about the importance of safe and resilient construction; fire prevention; disaster mitigation, and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2020 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure the safety of our built environment, and recognizes that the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies has saved lives and protected homes and businesses, and;

Whereas, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, \_\_\_\_\_, (Mayor, Supervisor, Commissioner, Governor) of the (City, Town, County, State) of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2020 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join with their communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

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Signature