

## Monthly Update

### INSIDE

#### Who wants to win a LEGO set?

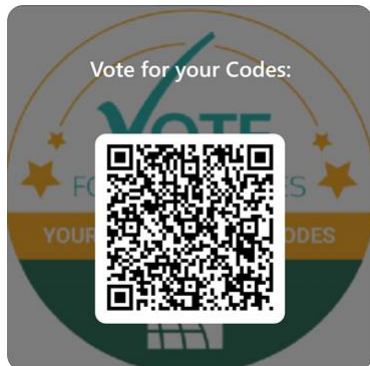
Check out the details on this Building Safety Month contest  
Page 2

#### Season 7 of The Pulse kicks off

Focus is on how to participate in the code updating process  
Page 4

#### IAS has career openings

Special inspection professionals sought for two programs  
Page 5



The Emerging Leaders Membership Council needs to hear from you. [Scan the above QR code to take a quick survey about the code development process.](#)

## UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR

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

[October 19–30, 2025](#)  
Huntington Convention Center  
Cleveland, OH

## It's here! The 2025 Building Safety Month helps you raise awareness about your work

This week starts Building Safety Month, an educational campaign to raise awareness about the importance of building codes and building safety professionals in establishing and ensuring the safety of the built environment. This year's theme "Game On!" motivates the public to take part in learning about and practicing building safety. Each year, the Code Council, its members and global communities celebrate building safety through proclamations, educational events and community gatherings. The weekly themes are:

- Week One (May 1–3): "[The Warm Up](#)"
- Week Two (May 4–10): "[Build Your Offense](#)"
- Week Three (May 11–17): "[Build Your Defense](#)"
- Week Four (May 18–24): "[The Starting Lineup](#)"
- Week Five (May 25–31): "[Going into Overtime](#)"

"Building Safety Month is all about coming together as a community to help ensure the safety of the built environment in a continuously changing world," said Code Council Board President David Spencer, CBO. "The Code Council encourages everyone to learn and teach others about the basic rules of building safety and the key players involved." The Code Council provides resources to promote Building Safety Month including promotional graphics, Kids Corner and resources for teachers on [the 2025 Building Safety Month website](#) to access resources. Need ideas? [Here's a video with tips!](#) Password is EeHdVZM7.

## UL's Fire Safety Research Institute recommends IWUIC® adoption following the 2023 Lahaina wildfire disaster

Recognizing how modern building codes save lives and protect property from fire, the UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) released a [report](#) recommending the adoption of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code® (IWUIC) following the Lahaina Fire in Maui, Hawaii. The 2023 fire burned more than 2,000 structures and killed 102 people, prompting Hawaii Governor Josh Green and Hawaii Attorney General Anne E. Lopez to commission the [Lahaina Fire Forward-Looking Report](#).

[Read more here](#) →



## May 25 is the deadline to submit your videos to win LEGO® sets

Do you have an interesting story about a building in your community? To celebrate [Building Safety Month 2025](#), we'll be [giving away building-themed LEGO® sets](#) to three lucky winners! To enter, submit a one-minute-long video telling us one fun fact about your favorite building in your community. The International Code Council will select the top three videos that best showcase a special building AND your creativity. [The winning videos will be announced on May 30](#) on social media and the Building Safety Journal. Winners will receive one of three popular building-themed LEGO® sets. Don't miss your chance to win! Submissions will be accepted through May 25. [Click here to submit](#) your entry. [See last year's winners here](#) →

## UA and ICC formalize partnership to support skilled trades

The International Code Council and [United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada \(UA\)](#) recently signed an agreement that underscores both organizations' commitment to the hardworking tradesmen and tradeswomen of the plumbing, mechanical fuel gas (PMG) industries. The UA represents approximately 384,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, HVACR service technicians, welders and pipeliners working in the construction industry throughout North America. This collaboration underscores the Code Council's efforts to developing best in class PMG-related codes, standards and other industry publications. The Code Council and the UA will continue to work together to help train the next generation of plumbers, pipefitters and mechanical contractors. Under this agreement, both organizations will advocate for improved plumbing infrastructure that supports public health.

[Read more here](#) →

## How some tribal nations are leading the way on building code adoption

With expanding construction and major renovation projects, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi sought to adopt codes that would provide their tribal citizens, businesses and visitors with the most advanced health and safety code provisions as well as the most advanced code provisions that would promote economic investment and development. "Adopting building codes is not just about safety and resilience; it's an affirmation of our sovereignty," commented Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Council Chairman. "Building codes are a testament to our self-determination and our commitment to the well-being of our people." There is currently no complete database of which tribes have adopted building codes, but tribal nations are like other jurisdictions in the U.S. – some have their own home-grown codes, some are based on various editions of model codes and some choose to mirror the model codes adopted by their respective state in which they are located. [Don't miss this [video on reinforced concrete storm shelters](#) in bathrooms which the tribal inspections office submitted for the 2025 Building Safety Month.]

[Read more here](#) →

## Study underscores financial and life savings from current building codes

While there are plenty of recent studies showing trends and massive losses from natural disasters in the United States, a pilot study from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) shows that one notable change has made a significant difference: **the adoption and implementation of building codes**. The Building Codes Save (BCS) – Fire Hazards Pilot Study used data from California (statewide) and Colorado (Boulder and El Paso counties) to evaluate the financial and life safety savings from modern building codes. In FEMA's pilot study, three key building code provisions were evaluated:

1. Advancements in fire-rated assemblies
2. Introduction of early warning systems, like smoke alarms
3. Introduction of fire sprinkler systems

Only single-family (SFR) residential structures were evaluated for the purpose of the study in order to narrow the types of codes that were considered. Non-building code measures, such as public education, were not included because they are not typically part of building codes adoptions. The results are incredibly encouraging. For structure fires, the estimated lifetime economic savings reached nearly \$1.8 billion for SFRs in California and more than \$44.9 million in Boulder and El Paso counties. These savings are spread over the 75-year useful life of residential

structures. Even better, more than 100 fatalities and more than 1,000 injuries have been averted in California, as well as seven fatalities and 66 injuries averted in Boulder and El Paso counties. The wildfire savings were even greater, reaching an estimated \$24.4 billion in California and \$457.7 million in Boulder and El Paso counties.

[Read more here](#) →

## Newly released annual Year in Review deems 2024 as “monumental”

The annual Year in Review report by the leadership of the International Code Council was released this week, including a letter from Code Council Board President David Spencer and ICC Chief Executive Officer John Belcik. The report for the year 2024 deemed it “a monumental year for the International Code Council. The joint statement said, “Throughout the year, our mission remained clear: to provide the information, tools and resources that members rely on, building safety professionals turn to and the public trusts. With support from our members, stakeholders and industry professionals, we continued to lead the way in a changing world by advocating for transformation, growth and collaboration within the building safety industry.” Further, “We look ahead with renewed focus and optimism. With the continued hard work and dedication of our members, partners, and building safety professionals worldwide, we are poised to reach new heights.” The report page [includes a video highlighting accomplishments](#).

[Read more here](#) →

## FEMA terminates BRIC program and cancels latest funding notice

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently [announced](#) the termination of its Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. FEMA will cancel a \$750 million notice of funding opportunity issued earlier this year. In addition, FEMA is reallocating all outstanding funding that the Agency has not yet dispersed for projects that have been selected in prior years. The Code Council recognizes the hard work and dedication our members have invested into strengthening resilience within our communities and that the termination of the BRIC program will directly impact current and/or planned projects. Our team is continuing to work closely with partners to ensure disaster mitigation and resilient infrastructure remain priorities. If the termination of the BRIC program has impacted you, please reach out to your regional government relations liaison or contact us at [advocacy@iccsafe.org](mailto:advocacy@iccsafe.org). We are here to support you and provide guidance as you navigate this transition.

## Project launched to develop critical standards for modular construction

The International Code Council and the Center for Offsite Construction (CfOC) at the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) announced their collaboration to develop critical standards for modular construction through the creation of the CFOC/ICC 1220 Standard on Configurations and Connections for Off-Site Construction. This groundbreaking effort aims to enhance quality, sustainability, resilience and affordability in the construction industry by establishing clear guidelines for the connection and configuration of modular components. The standard will address requirements for configuration and connections in off-site construction, including the location and specifications of module-to-module and building-to-module connections for essential building systems, the standardization of dimensions for modular components and coverage for componentized, panelized and modularized elements. This effort is expected to significantly advance the use of modular construction methods by providing a framework for ensuring consistent quality and compatibility across projects.

[Read more here](#) →

## NEW SURVEY: Your insights on hydrogen permitting and safety is needed

Whether or not you have previous experience with hydrogen projects, the Code Council is seeking your insight to support the development of resources that will enhance the permitting, plans examination and inspection of hydrogen systems. This survey, conducted under a U.S. Department of Energy initiative, aims to identify challenges and resource needs related to hydrogen deployment. By participating, you will help shape solutions to ensure safety in future hydrogen projects. *Participants will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for a chance to win one of 25 \$100 gift cards. Drawing eligibility ends May 31.*

[Read more here](#) →

## Code Council advances global dialogue on sustainable, resilient buildings

The International Code Council (ICC) joined governmental and private sector representatives at the 2025 Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) Annual Assembly, from April 7-8 in Dresden, Germany. The event highlighted the importance of building codes and their impact on the efficiency and resiliency of new and existing buildings. During the two-day event, ICC facilitated multiple sessions focused on implementation of the [Buildings Breakthrough](#) priority actions, the work of the GlobalABC Adaptation Hub, and led a training on disaster planning for building departments and ministries. ICC also hosted a building codes meet up to support collaboration across building and energy code initiatives including research, training, resource development and code implementation.

[Read more here](#) →

## How disaster planning helped City of Asheville after Tropical Storm Helene

In August 2024, Asheville, NC, was significantly impacted by Tropical Storm Helene, which brought heavy rains, strong winds and widespread flooding throughout the region. Though the storm didn't make direct landfall in the city, Asheville faced challenging conditions that caused immense devastation including deaths, damage to infrastructure, power outages and road closures. In anticipation of such events, the [City of Asheville](#) had already laid the groundwork for emergency preparedness, enabling a more effective response in the storm's aftermath. Starting in January 2023, Asheville committed to developing a city-wide, department-by-department Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that included a Continuity of Operations Plan. This effort included multiple in-person meetings, led by the City's Emergency Manager, with strong support from the City Manager's office. The goal was to ensure that all departments had a clear, coordinated plan to respond to various disaster scenarios.

[Read more here](#) →

## Members sought for the Smart Door Standard Consensus Committee

The International Code Council is currently seeking code officials, design professionals, installers and other industry stakeholders to volunteer for the Residential Smart Door Standard Consensus Committee (IS-RSDC). As an ANSI and SCC Accredited standards developing organization, the Code Council is developing a new product evaluation standard for residential smart doors that can be referenced in the [International Residential Code®](#) and utilized by manufacturers for certification.

[Read more here](#) →

## Graphical symbol exit signs: Are they a smarter way to lead the way out?

Most, if not all, people in the United States are familiar with the traditional exit sign, which features the text marking "EXIT," accompanied by a small chevron directional indicator. However, there is also another option that is widely used around the world. In 1979, Japanese graphic designer Yukio Ota designed a graphical symbol (pictogram) for use on exit signs, consisting of a figure running through a doorway. This symbol has subsequently been standardized as part of an international standard known as ISO 7010. As shown in this story, the exit symbol may be accompanied by a directional arrow, compared to the small chevron directional indicator used on traditional text exit signs.

[Read more here](#) →

## Leadership Week attracts 100+ chapter leaders to share best practices

From April 26-27, the International Code Council hosted its ICC Leadership Week in Orlando, Florida. This event was held in conjunction with the [Committee Action Hearings for Group B #1 Codes](#), taking place from April 27 to May 6. Attendees of ICC Leadership Week enjoyed a keynote speech, industry-leading conversations, networking opportunities and sessions developed specifically for leaders in the building safety and construction professions. The event kicked off on Friday with the Chapter Leadership Academy, offering attendees the opportunity to earn [Code Council Continuing Education Units](#) (CEUs) while learning effective leadership methods and connecting with peers.

[Read more here](#) →

## **GOT PULSE?** Season 7 starts series on participating in code development

Season 7 of the [ICC Pulse Podcast](#) is here, and to kick things off we're exploring the ins and outs of the International Code Council's code development process – just in time for the 2025 Committee Action Hearings! Learn what the process entails, how it shapes the building safety codes we rely on and discover how you can get directly involved. Episode 62 includes our very own **Russ Manning** and **Beth Tubbs** from the Code Council's Technical Services team, who'll discuss the structure of a typical code cycle, where to access proposed code changes and why your participation in this process is so important. Featured guests are **Jeffrey M. Shapiro**, P.E., FSFPE, President of International Code Consultants, Executive Director of the Texas Fire Protection Association, and **John Terry**, retired, Assistant Director of Codes and Standards, State of New Jersey.

[Read more here](#) →

## ICC Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Updates

### ISH Frankfurt 2025: Plumbing solutions for a sustainable future

[ISH Frankfurt](#), held from March 17-21, 2025, brought together global leaders, innovators and professionals in the water, plumbing and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) industries for a trade fair and conference in Frankfurt, Germany. The theme of this year's event was, "Solutions for a Sustainable Future," and was an incredible showcase of plumbing design, innovation and sustainability. Alongside showcasing new, innovative industry products, the event also hosted the highly anticipated "Value of Water" conference, which the International Code Council was proud to have played a part in and shared insights on the need to address water scarcity on the global stage.

[Read more here](#) →



## Recent 2025 World Water Awareness campaign aimed at empowerment

Last March, the International Code Council hosted its second annual [World Water Awareness campaign](#) to raise awareness about the water crisis and underscore our collective responsibility to address it through long-term, consistent water conservation efforts. The [World Water Awareness campaign](#) featured resources and information which help guide decision-makers in managing drinking water resources globally and aid in the rapid implementation of plumbing codes and standards. The resources included in-depth articles on water conservation initiatives and the advantages of the International Codes® (I-Codes), alongside podcast episodes that delve into plumbing solutions, water reuse and their vital role in preserving the world's water supply. A series of engaging webinars were also organized by the Code Council to further foster discussions around water conservation.

[Read more here](#) →

## Latest challenges and opportunities with A2L refrigerants examined

As the first half of 2025 wraps up, the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) industry wrestles with some of the new updates surrounding A2L refrigerants. To comply with regulations set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), manufacturers have made the switch from the higher global warming potential (GWP) HFC refrigerants to new HVAC systems utilizing lower GWP A2L refrigerants for residential and light commercial markets. The new lower GWP equipment is making its way onto the market, and with it comes some challenges with building code compliance for multifamily construction.

[Read more here](#) →

## ICC Family of Solutions Updates

### ICC-ES updates numbering system to protect public safety and consistency

ICC Evaluation Service ([ICC-ES](#)) has implemented significant updates to its Acceptance Criteria numbering system to protect public safety, enhance transparency, and maintain consistency with the latest building codes. ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria (AC) are developed through a transparent process, which includes public hearings of the ICC-ES Evaluation Committee and online public comment opportunities. As living documents, ACs are continually updated and revised to address public safety concerns, code compliance, and industry fairness. ICC-ES has identified instances where other evaluation agencies are issuing reports based on outdated and expired versions of ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria. This practice poses a significant concern for ICC-ES report holders and the public. Evaluating the same product types and same properties under different versions of criteria may cause misinterpretation among engineers, inspectors, and building officials, and also undermines manufacturers investing in meeting the requirements of updated and current ACs.

[Read more here](#) →

### IAS seeking assessors for SIA Program & Fabricator Accreditation Program

Special inspection professionals have a unique opportunity to expand their career paths and supplement their income by working as part-time contract assessors with the International Accreditation Service (IAS). This role is ideal for retired inspectors, those between full-time positions, or professionals with the flexibility to take on occasional assignments. The only caveat is that individuals cannot be used by IAS to assess a special inspection agency that may be deemed a competitor. IAS offers positions that leverage specialized knowledge in areas such as structural steel, concrete, and welding inspections, enabling experienced individuals to assess the competency of companies performing critical construction and manufacturing work. These roles provide flexibility, travel opportunities, and the chance to contribute to raising standards across the building industry.

[Read more here](#) →