

ICC Government Relations

September 2025

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POST-KATRINA: Louisiana is building safety leader

August 29 marked the 20-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest and costliest hurricanes in United States history, [resulting](#) in 1,392 fatalities and an estimated \$125 billion in damages (approximately \$205 billion in 2025 dollars). Following the hurricane, nearly 500,000 homes were [damaged](#) or destroyed across three states: 240,000 each in Louisiana and Mississippi and 1,700 in Alabama. Louisiana was hit the hardest; 80 percent of New Orleans was [flooded](#) in just 24 hours after the storm surge exceeded the limits of the levees protecting the city. In the aftermath, legislators knew they needed to make a change. Just as Hurricane Andrew inspired Florida policymakers to create the [Florida Building Code](#) (FBC), Hurricane Katrina did the same for Louisiana.

[Read more here](#) →



UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR

[2025 Annual Conference,
Expo & Committee
Action Hearings
October 19–30](#)
Huntington Convention Center
Cleveland, OH

'Early Bird' ends Sept. 12

Join us at the Code Council's
2025 Annual Conference, Expo
and Hearings in Cleveland for the
building safety industry's premier
event of the year! Register for the
Full Access Pass by [September 12](#)
for an early bird discount and a
free conference polo shirt.

[Register now.](#)

Homes built to wildfire-resistant standards are far more likely to survive a fire by as much as 60%

Building codes are an effective tool to reduce wildfire risk. Homes built to wildfire-resistant standards are far more likely to survive a fire—by as much as [60](#) percent. These codes are also economically advantageous: research shows that while homes built to code may [cost slightly more](#) than traditional construction, they can [prevent catastrophic future losses](#). Despite the safety and economic benefits, wildfire code adoption has faced resistance in some places because of concerns about upfront costs, where and how codes will be enforced, and potential conflicts with local policies. However, on July 1, 2025, Colorado became one of only a handful of states in the country to adopt a statewide wildfire building code. [Read about the [International Wildland-Urban Interface Code](#) and [California's adoption of the IWUIC](#).]

[Read more here](#) →

PRO CODES ACT: Act now to protect our codes

Right now, what you and your colleagues have built to create world-class safety codes and standards is under attack. That's why a bipartisan group of Members of Congress is at work to pass the [Pro Codes Act](#), H.R. 4072. *Your help is urgently needed.* Click [HERE](#) to let your **Member of Congress know your work deserves to be protected**. You'll be joining a broad coalition of building and fire safety organizations to defend our work. [Click here to ask your member of Congress](#) to protect your work and co-sponsor the Pro Codes Act today!

[Read more here](#) →

Got on-the-job pics and videos? Share them with the Cleveland audience

The Code Council invites members to share pictures and videos of the impactful work you and your building safety colleagues are doing in the field. These photos and videos will be reviewed by Code Council staff and featured at the 2025 Annual Conference in Cleveland. To submit photos or videos, please write a brief description that includes who is featured in the submission (from left to right), project details, location and any other important information (such as the chapter name, building department, etc.).

[Read more here](#) →

Virtual Candidates Forum for ICC Board candidates set for September 24

The Code Council will host a Virtual Candidates Forum for this year's Board of Directors candidates on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 12 pm ET. The panel will also feature members of the Code Council's Nominating Committee, and will be moderated by Stuart Tom, this year's Nominating Committee Chairman and Immediate Past President for the ICC Board of Directors. This forum offers a valuable opportunity to learn more about this year's candidates and gain a deeper understanding of their vision and priorities.

[Read more here](#) →

October 21 is the deadline to register as an ICC Governmental Member

The 2024–2026 cycle of the Code Development Process introduced a revised schedule for hearings as well as deadlines related to voting. To ensure voter eligibility, it is important for Governmental Members to check their membership status by logging in to their [myICC](#) account. To be eligible to vote at Group A and B Public Comment Hearings (PCH) or the Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV) in 2026, **an ICC Governmental Membership must be current as of October 21**. If the membership expires before October 21, it must be renewed to be eligible to vote in the 2026 PCH or OGCV. Visit [myICC](#) to check your status.

[Read more here](#) →

Deadline to apply for Exam Development Committees is September 15

The Code Council has many openings on Exam Development Committees (EDCs). Apply today to help contribute to the development and maintenance of ICC Certification exams. The application deadline is **September 15**. There are full and alternate member openings on several [EDCs](#). For more information about the duties and responsibilities of an EDC member, contact 888-422-7233, ext. 5524 or at accommittees@iccsafe.org. To apply, [click here](#).

Deadline for applications is December 15 for Emory R. Rodgers Fellowship

The Code Council is accepting applications for the Emory R. Rodgers Leadership in Building Safety Fellowship. All applications must be in by Monday, Dec. 15. The Emory R. Rodgers Leadership in Building Safety Fellowship is awarded annually to a building safety professional pursuing an executive-level career path, aiming to enhance leadership skills through an eligible program sponsored by a higher education institution. The Fellowship provides up to \$20,000 to cover the full educational program costs and travel expenses for the recipient. If you know of anyone who is eligible and deserving of this opportunity, please ask them to apply.

[Read more here](#) →

The future of FEMA's BRIC funding remains up in the air in Washington

In April, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) halted funding for the Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. While the program remains on hold, individual states and members of Congress are actively pressuring FEMA to resume funding for pre-disaster mitigation projects nationwide. On July 16, 20 states had filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration's decision to terminate the BRIC program. The complaint argues that FEMA lacks the authority to terminate the BRIC program as Congress had already appropriated funding for BRIC initiatives, including building code implementation, education and enforcement. The courts have not yet issued a ruling on this lawsuit.

[Read more here](#) →

Webinar September 4 focuses on workplace shortages and AI influences

Join John Belcik, Code Council CEO, and Joan O'Neil, Code Council Chief Knowledge Officer, at the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Elevate 2025 event on Sept. 4 in Washington, D.C. for a conversation with expert panelists on the critical shortage of skilled workers in the construction and infrastructure sectors and how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping workforce development. Artificial intelligence is on the minds of everyone these days from government officials to architects and code officials to the trades. Hear from experts about how AI is transforming workforce development in the building and construction space. This session will provide actionable advice on how you can integrate new tools and technologies into your workplace.

[Read more here](#) →

The ICC Performance Code now available for public input until October 29

In accordance with the [International Code Council's Consensus Procedures \(ANSI\)](#), the initial draft of the [ICC Performance Code](#) (ICCPC), is available for public input for a period of 60 days starting August 29 and ending October 29. To view the initial draft, [click here](#). Changes may be submitted to the initial draft of the 2027 ICCPC [here](#). To provide a modern, updated, International Code®-based option, the Code Council is reimagining the ICCPC, a code originally developed during the 1996-2000 code cycle and largely unchanged since. This important effort is driven by the “[Reimagining the ICC Performance Code](#)” study, aimed at bringing the code up to today's industry standards. Rapid change related to the acceleration of new technology, pressures from climate change and population growth can make it difficult for traditional prescriptive regulatory approaches to remain current. The ICCPC is intended to provide an enhanced regulatory tool to address these issues.

[Read more here](#) →

FEMA releases guide to help code enforcement officers with daily tasks

To help code enforcement professionals with everyday responsibilities, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) created the *Building Codes Enforcement Playbook*. Released in June, it serves to improve both building administration and code enforcement within jurisdictions to ensure compliance with modern codes, accelerate recovery and support long-term mitigation goals. This Playbook offers practical guidance for handling challenges, setting up effective processes and building strong partnerships with governments, stakeholders and the public.

[Read more here](#) →

INTRO Cleveland's mass timber apartment accentuates sustainable living

Steel and concrete are critical building blocks for commercial and residential properties, but there is another material to add to that list: mass timber. Produced by using nails or glue to combine several pieces of wood into beams, roofs, floors, walls and more, mass timber has become a popular green and sustainable material. Those who attend the [2025 International Code Council Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings](#) (October 19-30) will have the chance to see and learn more about mass timber during the building tour to [INTRO Cleveland](#). Developed by [Harbor Bay Ventures](#), INTRO Cleveland is a nine-story apartment building and the first LEED Gold Certified high rise mass timber complex in Ohio. By using mass timber, Harbor Bay Ventures was able to construct a building with [lower](#) carbon emissions (40 percent reduction), nitrous oxide (39 percent reduction) and sulfur dioxide (39 percent reduction) than conventional materials.

[Read more here](#) →

NIST shares its insights on the cause of the Surfside condo collapse

The National Construction Safety Team (NCST), part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has published a comprehensive video update detailing its ongoing investigation into the partial collapse of the Champlain Towers South building in Surfside, FL, which occurred in June 2021. The video outlines the investigation's timeline and current progress, presents early findings and explores how this complex effort may influence future building codes and standards. The video explores various hypotheses as to why this collapse transpired based on initial findings. The hypothesis with the highest likelihood of occurrence was failure of one of the typical slab-column connections in the pool deck.

[Read more here](#) →

American College of the Building Arts hosted recent CCEA chapter meeting

“Some say they don't make things the way they used to. We beg to differ.” Those words are emblazoned on the front page of the website for the [American College of the Building Arts](#) (ACBA), a one-of-a-kind school that educates and trains artisans in the traditional building arts. ACBA recently hosted a chapter meeting for the [Coastal Code Enforcement Association of South Carolina](#) (CCEA), which represents building officials and code enforcement officers in the Coastal South Carolina jurisdictions. The meeting featured a presentation about the history of building codes, as well as a tour of the ACBA facility, including its impressive library. “The library itself has 17,500 items, around 13,500 of which are unique,” said Lieutenant General (Retired) Colby M. Broadwater, III, President of ACBA. “It's designed around visual things. It's building arts, decorative arts, fine arts – it's what beauty looks like. In addition, we've collected quite a few older works that a lot of places don't have anymore. We're a repository for older work.”

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Updates

Code Council strengthens collaboration with UA at annual training program

As part of its ongoing commitment to advancing skilled labor, the International Code Council participated in the [United Association's](#) (UA) annual [Instructor Training Program](#) (ITP) in Ann Arbor, MI. Plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas (PMG) Directors Gary Gauthier and Rich Anderson represented the Code Council at this premier training event.

The UA represents approximately 389,000 professionals across the construction industry, including plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, HVACR service technicians and more. Their ITP event plays a critical role in shaping the future of technical training and workforce development. During the event, a new agreement was presented between the Code Council and UA, enhancing access to Code Council resources for UA instructors through the Joint Apprentice Training Center (JATC) programs.

[Read more here](#) →

An appeal action has been initiated against Section 718.1 of the IPC

An [appeal action has been initiated](#) for Section 718.1 of the International Code Council's 2021, 2024 and 2027 International Plumbing Code® (IPC). Here are some next steps in the process:

- Appeal Board: September 26, 2025, 11:30-13:30 ET
- Comment/Viewpoint Submission Deadline: August 26, 2025, 11:59 PT
- Request to Attend Deadline: September 10, 2025, 11:59 PT

The Appeals Process is a part of the ICC's [Code Development Process](#). Anyone can appeal an action or inaction of the code committee. The Code Council renders its decision based on whether due process was served.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Family of Solutions Updates

ICC-ES Plumbing Test Lab has custom equipment for variety of products

ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) provides comprehensive testing for an array of plumbing products. ICC-ES test labs are accredited to the ISO 17025 standard, ensuring that the validity of our results can be relied on. The team at ICC-ES understands how important timely test results are for your business goals and objectives and will work with you to efficiently conduct tests. Tailored test plans will ensure projects will stay on track, providing accurate results quickly. The ICC-ES Plumbing Test Lab has custom equipment for testing a wide variety of plumbing products, including but not limited to:

- Fixtures (tubs, showers, sinks, toilets, urinals, etc.)
- Fittings (faucets, shower heads, connectors, valves, etc.)
- WaterSense Products
- Pools and spas

ICC-ES streamlines the process of acquiring the test reports needed to obtain product certification, allowing you to get your plumbing products to market faster! ICC-ES PMG is the premier product certification program for North America, certifying Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas products to the requirements of International, Uniform and Canadian Codes and Standards.

[Read more here](#) →

November 4 is the date set for review by Evaluation Committee hearing

The following items will be presented for review at the virtual Evaluation Committee hearing on November 4:

- AC517 Push Pier Foundation Systems
- AC565 Natural Fiber Board Insulation
- AC576 Reinforcing Steel Bars Galvanized by Continuous Hot-dip Process
- AC577 Rigid Polymer Stay-in-place Formwork for Concrete Wall Construction
- AC578 Modified Glass Mat Gypsum Sheathing, Water-resistive Barrier and Air Barrier

Parties interested in joining the ICC-ES Evaluation Committee hearing on November 4 must register for the WebEx Event. Registrations will be reviewed and approved by ICC-ES weekly. Applicants will receive a confirmation when their registrations have been approved by ICC-ES. Registrations will open on August 8 and will close November 3. Registrations will not be approved by ICC-ES after November 3. View the detailed agenda and all the latest information [here](#).

[Read more here](#) →