

Monthly Update

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UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR

**2026 Public Comment Hearings – Group A & B
April 19–28, 2026**
The Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford CT

**2026 ICC Annual Conference and Expo
October 18 – 21, 2026**
Gaylord Opryland Resort
Nashville, TN



Bring the bling to brighten up your jurisdiction's Building Safety Month celebrations and events

The International Code Council encourages code professionals, building departments, teachers and community members to host in-person and virtual learning events for Building Safety Month. These events are an effective way to help raise the profile of building safety professionals and the work they do in our communities, and highlight how building codes help keep us all safe. While no two events look the same, here you'll find resources for in-person events and webinars that cover all the basics so you can focus on what matters most – connecting with your audience and attendees:

- Hard hats, stickers, pencils, and vests for kids are available for Building Safety Month activities to be used as giveaways and prizes. The bling to brighten your activities is available at the [International Code Council Store](#). Here are other Building Safety Month resources to tap:
- Check out CODiE's Kids Corner page on the ICC website featuring coloring book, activities book, a Junior Code Official certificate, a building safety checklist for your home, a crossword puzzle, a fire escape and danger find puzzle, a safety search fun kit, a safety scramble game, classroom safety presentations for kindergarten through third graders and for fourth through sixth graders, and a kids' [Building Safety Month proclamation](#).
- The Code Council [offers this guide for an in-person presentation](#) on Building Safety Month. In-person events can range from educational events or construction site walkthroughs, to mock inspections or classroom presentations at a local school.
- Virtual events are more cost-effective, easy to set up and can be attended from the comfort of home. We've listed [a few tips for hosting a virtual Building Safety Month event here](#). Start promoting four to six weeks in advance and use social media, email invitations and your website to share your registration page link.
- Download this [step-by-step Building Safety Month Campaign Guide](#) for ideas for community outreach and involvement. Also, here's a [link to create a Building Safety Month proclamation](#) for signatures from local leaders and organizations. This campaign webpage also gives you tips on using local media and social media.

[Read more here](#) →

Membership Councils lining up veteran code hearing participants with first-timers at Group A & B hearings

The Emerging Leaders Membership Council (ELMC) and the Building Membership Council (BMC) are working on a project to line up veteran code hearing participants with first timers at the Group A & B Public Comment Hearings in Hartford, Connecticut. The hearings will be held April 19-28 following Leadership Week activities, and the project is a new development in the ongoing **Vote for Your Codes** campaign. The ELMC/BMC committee wants [first-timers to use this link to help the committee match them](#) with veteran participants. "The idea is to match

those who are new with those who have had experience with code development hearings,” Greg Gilbert, Past Chair of the ELMC Governing Committee, said. “These mentor relationships can enrich the experience of participating in this hearing and future hearings in general.”

BRIC is back! FEMA resumes funding to state, tribal and local jurisdictions

On March 25, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) making \$1 billion in funding available to states, local governments, territories and Tribal Nations through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, “empowering them to take decisive, proactive steps to protect their communities from potential disasters like fires, floods, earthquakes and hurricanes.” BRIC makes federal funds available for hazard mitigation activities to reduce future disaster costs. The program emphasizes the adoption and enforcement of modern building codes and limits capability- and capacity-building activities to those directly tied to infrastructure resilience. As a result of consistent advocacy by ICC and others in the building safety industry, FEMA has set aside \$81 million in new BRIC funding for building code adoption and enforcement activities: \$56 million for a “State/Territory Building Code Plus-Up,” with a maximum allocation of \$1 million per state and territory, and \$25 million for a “Tribal Building Code Plus-Up” for federally recognized tribes.

[Read more here](#) →



Site for Leadership Week and hearings blends mix of fun and business

The [Connecticut Convention Center](#) has brought a unique mix of business and fun to Hartford, Connecticut since the day it opened in June 2005. Dubbed the largest convention facility between New York and Boston, the Connecticut Convention Center has hosted a number of boxing matches that aired on Showtime, HBO and ESPN. Panic! at the Disco is among the recording artists that have performed at the Connecticut Convention Center. 50 Cent had one of his birthday parties there as well; the event featured multiple boxing matches and an afterparty with live music. Numerous conventions, trade shows and charities return to the venue year after year, including ConnectiCon, the Aerospace Component Manufacturers Tradeshow and the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Annual Fundraising Gala. “We’re along the Connecticut River, and you can walk from the building along the river and go downtown without ever having to get on the streets,” said Mike Costelli, General Manager for the Connecticut Convention Center. “It’s very attractive for guests from that perspective.” The Connecticut Convention Center will soon host the [2026 International Code Council \(ICC\) Leadership Week + Hearings](#), which is scheduled to kick off on April 18 and will run through April 24.

[Read more here](#) →

Notice announced of 2027 Code Development Cycle (OGCV) voting period

The 2027 Code Development Cycle Group A & B Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV) will open May 8 and will close on May 22 at 11:59 P.M. Pacific Time. Validated voters are eligible to vote on individual code change proposals through [cdpAccess](#). The unofficial OGCV results will be available [on the Code Development Committee page](#) approximately two weeks after the conclusion of the OGCV under “Committee News.” The online posting of the final action 2027 Code Development Cycle Group A & B results, including OGCV results, will occur following the Validation Committee’s certification of the OGCV and report to the Code Council Board of Directors (see Section 13 of [CP28 Code Development](#)). Should you have any additional questions, please contact ICC Member Services at members@iccsafe.org or call Member Services staff at 888ICCSAFE (8884227233) x33804.

DATA CENTERS: Code Council offers a new Data Center Guideline

Data centers have moved from a niche building type to a central pillar of modern infrastructure. Across the International Code Council's (ICC) code development process, proposals now under consideration reflect growing recognition that these facilities present unique building safety considerations. At the same time, ICC is launching a dedicated Data Center Guideline development effort to provide near-term clarity for code officials, designers and owners navigating today's projects. The Data Center industry has seen extensive growth in recent years, with investments more than quadrupling over the past five years. Demand is expected to accelerate further as artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital services continue to expand. These trends are driving the development of larger, more complex facilities with substantial electrical, mechanical and operational demands. For building safety professionals, this rapid evolution raises important questions about how data centers should be classified, regulated and designed under existing building codes. This article provides a building safety perspective on how codes address data centers today and what's to come. Also, [see this article on Dara Centers from PHCP PROS](#) magazine.

[Read more here](#) →

'When Disaster Strikes' training series offered to prepare code officials

The International Code Council's "When Disaster Strikes (WDS) Institute" prepares attendees to effectively respond to disasters. Through a combination of instruction, interactive activities and case study reviews, participants will learn the critical role of code officials in the wake of a disaster, the process of developing disaster preparedness plans, the types and availability of mutual aid, and the importance and process of coordinating and conducting preliminary damage assessments, substantial damage estimates and post-disaster building safety evaluations. The WDS Institute also serves as a resource for maintaining your When Disaster Strikes credential, with the goal of increasing the number of trained and qualified Post-Disaster Building Safety Evaluators and Coordinators.

[Read more on series schedule here](#) →

Insights shared by professionals in honor of Women in Construction Week

[Women in Construction Week](#) is an annual event dedicated to recognizing the contributions of women in the construction industry. The campaign was first held in 1998 by the [National Association of Women in Construction](#) (NAWIC) to raise awareness about the achievements, challenges and opportunities for women in construction. It serves as a platform to highlight their accomplishments, promote diversity within the industry and inspire more women to pursue careers in building safety. In honor of this week, the International Code Council connected with professionals in the field, inviting them to share their insight, experiences and advice for those seeking to enter and advance within the industry.

[Read more here](#) →

Building inspector emphasizes preparation, consistency and curiosity

Morgan Morrison, Building Inspector and Plans Examiner for the City of Mount Vernon, WA, started as a Utility Clerk in 2014 before transitioning to the permitting and building process department in 2019. After becoming a Permit Technician in 2020, she began to understand how much responsibility sits behind every approval. "The deeper I got into code and construction requirements, the more I realized every permit, whether residential or commercial, represents someone's safety and investment," said Morrison. "The process stopped feeling administrative and more like real responsibility," she added. "That responsibility led me to pursue inspections and transition into a building inspector role in 2024. Each position has built upon the last. Permitting work provided a strong foundation in process, code requirements and customer interaction. As a Senior Permit Technician, I reviewed plans and answered technical questions daily, which naturally sparked my interest in understanding construction beyond what was shown on paper." From the importance of Chapter participation, to communication, mentorship and more, here Morrison shares her career story and gives advice for other women considering joining the construction workforce.

[Read more here](#) →

Housing affordability and safety should never be seen as competing goals

A New Year's celebration in the Swiss Alps turned tragic when a fire broke out at a bar. Forty-one people lost their lives. Reports suggest the fire started from sparklers placed on champagne bottles, positioned too close to the ceiling's flammable soundproofing foam. Investigators are examining whether the venue had adequate fire protection systems, sufficient exits and appropriate building materials, and why safety officials failed to perform annual safety inspections for five years. For those of us who work in fire and life safety, this tragedy felt devastatingly familiar. [The 1942 Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire](#) in Boston — one of the deadliest in U.S. history, believed to have resulted from the ignition of flammable palm tree decor — killed 492 people. [The 2003 Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island](#) claimed 100 lives when soundproofing foam on the ceiling ignited due to a pyrotechnic display. In each case, the spark may have differed, but what happened was not an accident of fate. These tragedies and many like them are what happens when safety requirements are ignored, diluted or not enforced — when we choose cost-cutting over proven protection.

[From Governing Magazine, read more here](#) →

RESILIENT CITIES EXPO: Building safety codes are the foundation

Construction leaders, material innovators, infrastructure experts, architects and engineers convened at the Resilient Cities Expo from March 5-6 in Miami, Fla., to discuss how urban development can better withstand natural hazards and extreme weather events while addressing the evolving needs of communities worldwide. Ryan Colker, Executive Director, Energy, Resilience & Innovation for the International Code Council (ICC), was a keynote speaker at this year's event and presented on the important role building codes play in setting a strong foundation for resilient cities. In his speech, Colker explored the many challenges communities face when it comes to resilience, including physical resilience to hazard events, social resilience in the face of rising energy costs—particularly for low and moderate income households—and the broader housing and rental affordability issues many communities face.

[Read more here](#) →

VIDEO: Building safety runs strongly in this South Carolina family

"Remember, you're not just picking a career, you're picking a lifestyle," said Thurman Pellum Jr., City Building Official for the City of Goose Creek, South Carolina, when his son told him he wanted to become a building safety professional. After twelve years of being in the food and beverage industry, Thurman Pellum III made the decision to change his career. Once he had learned more about his father's profession, he decided he wanted to have a more meaningful job where he felt like he was actually contributing to a greater cause. Currently, Pellum III is excelling as a Building Inspector for the City of North Charleston, South Carolina. Most recently, he completed his career goals of becoming a Certified Building Official and a Master Code Professional, an accomplishment that took him less than three years.

[See the video here](#) →

ICC Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Updates

MOU to advance mutual interests in geothermal installations, technologies

The International Code Council (ICC) and International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in recognition of shared interests. The ultimate objective of this agreement is to advance and promote the mutual interests of geothermal installations and technologies. Together, the organizations will:

- Support the development of future codes and standards to promote geothermal installations and technologies
- Promote respective educational programs, conferences and publications to members
- Support the participation of subject matter experts on respective technical initiatives, including ICC's Advisory Board and other committees and councils

"We are pleased to strengthen our collaboration with IGSHPA to advance safe, efficient geothermal technologies," said Rich Anderson, CBO, Director, PMG Technical Resources. "This agreement deepens our shared commitment to education, technical expertise and future code development, supporting the growth of ground source heat pumps as a key solution for a low-carbon, high-performance-built environment."

[Read more here](#) →

Hydrogen systems growth represents both opportunity and responsibility

Hydrogen systems are entering a period of rapid expansion, driven by falling production costs, new feedstocks and a widening set of applications across the U.S. and internationally. For industry associations, building and fire officials and the skilled trades, this moment represents both opportunity and responsibility. Technology is maturing quickly, and the workforce, regulatory community and safety ecosystem must keep pace. Hydrogen's affordability has improved significantly in the past five years as electrolyzer prices have declined (which is an electrochemical device that splits water into hydrogen and oxygen through a process called electrolysis), renewable electricity has become cheaper and new federal and state incentives have accelerated deployment.

[Read more here](#) →

Updates announced in the newly revised ANSI/PHTA/ICC -11 standard

The newly revised *ANSI/PHTA/ICC-11 2026 American National Standard for Water Quality in Public Pools and Hot Tubs/Spas* provides recommended minimum guidelines for water quality in public pools and hot tubs/spas, intended to minimize health and safety hazards for bathers. It is an essential set of specifications for public health officials as well as service and operations management companies.

[Read more here](#) →

Workforce Development: Building the next generation of professionals

Across the plumbing, mechanical, and fuel gas (PMG) industries, a single challenge rises to the top of nearly every conversation: the workforce shortage. Contractors struggle to hire qualified installers. Building departments

face difficulty replacing retiring inspectors and plans examiners. Engineers report longer project timelines due to staffing gaps. All of this is unfolding as construction pipelines grow and technology evolves faster than ever before. The demand for skilled PMG professionals isn't going away; it's accelerating. The solution lies in how we, as code professionals and industry leaders, train, mentor and support the next generation entering our field.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Family of Solutions Updates

ICC-ES named Water Ambassador for Intelligent Use of Water at MCE '26

ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES), a leading provider of technical evaluations and product certifications for the built environment, has announced it will serve as a Water Ambassador for the “Intelligent (use of) Water” initiative at [MCE – Mostra Convegno Expocomfort 2026](#), taking place March 24–27, 2026, at Fiera Milano in Rho, Italy. MCE features innovative global manufacturers showcasing their latest designs that improve water efficiency and use for commercial, residential and industrial markets. As a Water Ambassador, ICC-ES will support and promote the Intelligent (use of) Water project and will sponsor the Water Prix contest at its booth during MCE 2026. The Intelligent (use of) Water initiative spotlights solutions that enable smarter, more efficient, and more responsible water use across buildings and infrastructure—from fixtures and fittings to systems that support water quality, durability, performance, and regulatory compliance.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC-ES connect with building and plumbing manufacturers at Florida event

Representatives of ICC-ES recently returned to Orlando, Fla. for Design and Construction Week 2026, exhibiting at both the NAHB International Builders' Show (IBS) and the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS). Throughout the week, the team connected with building and plumbing product manufacturers who are navigating testing, inspection and certification pathways in an evolving regulatory landscape. From established brands to emerging innovators, conversations centered on expanding market access, simplifying compliance and preparing products for both domestic and international growth. Several programs highlighted were:

- **New Electrical Services Division:** Attendees learned about expanded capabilities, including compliance readiness services, factory audits, technical training and global concierge support to help streamline electrical product certification.
- **Enhanced Environmental Transparency:** Through a strategic collaboration with Sustainable Minds, manufacturers can now access more efficient pathways to Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), supporting sustainability goals and project specification requirements.
- **Market Insights Services:** Many visitors expressed interest in leveraging ICC-ES' market research to make more informed decisions about product development, target regions and strategic direction.
- **Comprehensive Cabinetry Programs:** The Safe and Sustainable Cabinetry (SASC) program and certifications to ANSI A161.1 generated strong engagement among cabinet manufacturers seeking credible third-party validation.

[Read more here](#) →



LEGO Competition Kits

How about winning a LEGO set to celebrate 2026 Building Safety Month?

To celebrate Building Safety Month 2026, we'll be giving away one building-themed LEGO® set to three lucky winners! To enter, submit a one-minute-long video telling us about a new or updated building and how it benefits your community. The International Code Council will review all submissions and select the top three videos that best showcase the building AND your creativity. The winning videos will be announced the week of May 25th on our social media pages and the Building Safety Journal. Winners will receive one of three popular building-themed LEGO® sets from ICC, thanking them for their participation and support.

[Read more here](#) →