

2026 Education Program Descriptions

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20



Code Enforcement

Legal Aspects of Code Enforcement and Administration

Presenter: Judith Rothschild

By the end of this 90-minute accelerated session, attendees will understand the essential constitutional, civil, and criminal frameworks governing code enforcement. Participants will define the code official's role as a "governmental official" bound by the U.S. and State Constitutions, focusing tightly on Fourth Amendment limits and the legal definition of a "search." The course outlines how to navigate right-of-entry challenges, identifying when consent is required versus "waived," and the protocol for obtaining an administrative search warrant when entry is denied. To mitigate personal and jurisdictional liability, attendees will learn to distinguish between ministerial acts required by law and discretionary acts requiring professional judgment. Finally, the session equips professionals to issue legally defensible Orders to Abate, Stop Work Orders, and Notices of Unsafe Structures, while differentiating between civil injunctions and the "Probable Cause" requirements needed for criminal arrest warrants.

Report Writing

Presenter: Kerry Simpson

Session description coming soon.

Solving the Puzzle: Identifying and Understanding Hoarding Disorder in Code Enforcement

Presenter: Greg Smith, GMS Presentations and Training

Encountering a hoarding situation in a housing unit can be like solving a puzzle. Finding the right pieces to match, knowing where to place them and seeing the bigger picture through all of it can be a daunting task for any property manager. Greg Smith has more than 14 years of experience dealing with hoarding situations on a professional and personal level. By sharing his experiences as a municipal inspector and family member of a hoarder, Greg will help property managers find solutions to the ever-changing puzzle that is hoarding.

Strategic Code Enforcement

Presenter: Doug Leeper

Session description coming soon.

Energy and Sustainability

Commissioning and the Energy Code

Presenters: Rich Truitt, Charles Jackson, Jerica Stacey

The energy savings of building mechanical, service water heating, and lighting systems are only realized when the systems operate as intended and are monitored and properly maintained. This level of performance verification is achieved through building commissioning and functional and performance testing. From both the code official and practitioner perspective, this panel discussion covers the updated requirements for building

commissioning and functional testing for commercial buildings, the documentation a code official should expect to receive, and the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the commissioning process.

2024 IECC Residential Significant Changes

Presenter: Rich Truitt

Improvements to the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) offer more than seven percent energy savings compared to the 2021 IECC and make the code more user-friendly and enforceable. This session covers both the administrative changes to the code and the changes that impact energy use in residential building projects—including those to the building thermal envelope, mechanical and service water heating systems, lighting systems and additional energy efficiency requirements—for all compliance paths. Changes to the requirements for new construction and existing buildings will be discussed.

Unpacking Commercial Energy Credits

Presenter: Jerica Stacey

Additional energy efficiency credit requirements are a key change in the 2024 IECC. While energy credits are a versatile way for design professionals, building owners, and others involved in the commercial construction process to decide how best to make their building or system more efficient, they can be complex. This session unpacks the requirements of Section C406 in an understandable way. Attendees will learn of base energy credits as well as renewable and load management credits and when each are required for both new construction and existing buildings. Application exercises for new construction, core and shell buildings, and existing buildings will be included.

Next Steps in Energy Efficiency: A Look at the Appendices, IgCC, and 2030 IECC

Presenters: Kris Stenger, Jerica Stacey, Don Mock

The IECC serves as the model energy code for states and jurisdictions adopting minimum energy requirements. However, many jurisdictions have energy efficiency goals or climate action plans that cannot be met with improvements in the base code alone. This session covers existing adoptable appendices that incorporate additional energy saving and greenhouse gas reducing strategies and includes a discussion on lessons learned from an adopting jurisdiction. The session also looks at what is new in the 2027 International Green Construction Code (IgCC) for jurisdictions looking to extend beyond building energy use and offers insight into the 2030 IECC.

Existing Building

Code Compliance for Historical Buildings Using the International Existing Building Code

Presenter: Marilyn Kaplan

There are over two million buildings and structures with federal historic designation, and perhaps another 2 million when including those designated by states and local governments or that are eligible for designation. These range from small 18th century structures to large mid-20th century housing, mills or factories. In 2024 alone, historic rehabilitations using federal tax credits were valued at \$6.8 billion, creating more than 116,000 jobs. More than half were in economically distressed areas and in communities with populations less than 25,000 or up to 250,000. The importance of the IEBC is unchanged from when first published in 2003: a critical tool to eliminating code-related barriers to the rehabilitation of existing and historic structures. In 2027, and when coupled with state and federally funded housing programs, use of the IEBC can alleviate some of the nation's most critical issues associated with the availability and affordability of housing, as well as substandard conditions contributing to fire and life safety hazards.

The code official may be the first in a community to discuss a potential rehabilitation project with an applicant, and/or may be presented projects using any of the three compliance methods contained in the IEBC. The session will begin with an overview of the IEBC and present how to use both the 2027 and (upcoming) 2030 editions. The session will then focus on the code's three compliance paths, in particular the Work Area and Performance compliance methods.

IEBC Performance Compliance Method

Presenter: Rob Emard

This session goes through a real-world application of the Performance Compliance Method from the 2024 IEBC for an office building. An understanding of the intent of the performance compliance method is built through reviewing the details for each performance attribute while using the method on an office building.

Opportunities and Challenges to Adaptive Reuse of Existing Buildings

Presenter: Bill Bracken

This session will review and discuss the adaptive reuse of existing buildings. The session begins with a review of the various methods and approaches which include complete reuse, adaptive reuse, and façade preservation. This session then provides a discussion on the benefits to the community, the challenges and the solutions presented within the building code. This session then provides known historical and current obscure examples of adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

Overview and Application of the International Existing Building Code (IEBC)

Presenters: Eirene Knott, Kevin McOsker, Grant Ullrich

This course will provide an overview of the IEBC. Included in the overview will be the application of the three compliance methods on a sample project for comparison purposes.

Fire and Energy Storage Systems

An EAP is More Than a Fire Drill: Developing Emergency Action Plans Effectively

Presenter: Tunzyaan Griffin

In this session, you will learn about Emergency Action Plans and factors that affect the process of creating and implementing your EAP, including training for staff and employees.

2027 IFC Sneak Peek

Presenter: Scott W. Adams

This presentation will offer a focused overview of the most significant changes in the 2027 International Fire Code (IFC). Aimed at fire safety professionals and stakeholders, it covers the new and revised code requirements, practical impacts, and strategies for compliance.

Batteries in the Built Environment: 2027 IFC Update

Presenter: Chief Micheal O'Brian

Lithium-Ion Batteries are expanding in the built environment. From manufacturing to Lithium-Ion powered forklifts, the use is expanding and code officials need current guidance and code for how to protect their communities. The 2027 editions of the IFC have robust provisions related to batteries in the built environment. This goes far beyond the requirements for energy storage systems. This program will dive into the changes that have occurred for the 2027 edition and prepare the student for understanding the provisions affecting manufacturing, mobility, industrial trucks, recycling, and research spaces. The program will equip all code officials with the understanding of the changes that have occurred in the upcoming 2027 edition as well as the resources available by the ICC.

Single-Stair Residential Buildings- Code Development, History, and Emerging Approaches

Presenter: Robert Marshall and Chris Brunette

This session provides a technical and historical examination of single-stair configurations in multi-family residential buildings within the context of modern building and fire codes. Participants will review the origins of current egress requirements, including significant historical fire events that influenced the development of minimum exit stair provisions. We will explore recent efforts to modify these requirements through legislative action rather than the established ICC code development process, highlighting key differences in approach and implications for code adoption and enforcement. Attendees will also gain insight into the perspectives of major stakeholders, including code officials, fire service representatives, designers, and housing advocates. Additionally, this session will review current research, international practices, and proposed mitigation strategies intended to address life safety concerns associated with single-stair designs. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the technical basis for existing provisions, the provisions coming to the 2027 IBC/IFC, evaluating proposed alternatives, and supporting informed decision-making in code application and policy discussions. This session is intended for building officials, fire officials, design professionals, and others seeking a comprehensive understanding of an evolving issue in residential building code policy.

Commercial Codes

2027 IBC Sneak Peek

Presenter: George Reid

This session will discuss key changes in the 2027 IBC fire- and life-safety provisions as well as changes to accessibility requirements.

Forensic Investigation of Building Envelope Failures: Lessons for Code Officials and Inspectors

Presenter: Matheus Albiani Dourado

Building envelope failures can lead to significant structural deterioration, moisture intrusion, occupant health concerns, and costly repairs. Drawing from real-world forensic engineering investigations, this session examines common failure mechanisms affecting roofs, exterior walls, windows, balconies, and waterproofing systems. Attendees will learn how construction defects, design deficiencies, material deterioration, and maintenance issues contribute to building performance problems. Through practical case studies, participants will gain insights into identifying warning signs, documenting field observations, understanding root-cause analysis, and applying lessons learned to improve code compliance, inspection practices, and long-term building durability.

Seniors Housing & Healthcare Crossover - IBC vs. NFPA 101

Presenter: Todd Aerni

Session description coming soon.

2024 IBC Flood Provisions and Upcoming Changes

Presenter: Bill Bracken

This 90-minute course reviews floodplain and FEMA flood basics. This course also reviews and increases awareness of the flood design requirements found within the 2024 edition of the International Building Code (IBC) and upcoming changes in the 2027 edition of the IBC along with the design requirements found within ASCE 7-22 and ASCE 24-14.

Residential Codes

Insurance Crisis: Wind Resilience and Louisiana's Aged Housing Stock

Presenter: Ashley van der Meulen

Session description coming soon.

Residential Electrical Safety Devices- Their Role in Occupant Safety and Equipment/ Appliance Protection

Presenter: Joseph Wages, Jr.

This session will highlight the critical role that life safety devices play within our homes. We'll take a close look at essential devices such as ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), surge protective devices (SPDs), and smoke alarms. The presentation will guide participants through a historical journey, examining the evolution of these safety devices from homes built in the 1960s all the way to those constructed in the 2020s. As our modern homes continue to fill with an ever-growing array of electronic devices, appliances, and sophisticated equipment, the importance of robust electrical safety measures has only increased. This session will underscore how the development and adoption of these electrical safety devices have become more vital than ever in safeguarding our living spaces.

Snowloads and ASCE 7

Presenter: Sandra Hyde

This session will review the changes to snow requirements in the 2024 IBC/IRC/IEBC and ASCE 7. Snow loads may change by more than 50 percent in your area or may remain the same.

2027 IRC Sneak Peek

Presenters: Sandra Hyde, Robert Rice

In this session you will discuss key changes in the 2027 IRC providing a safe living environment and how changes may affect local construction practices.

Mechanical and Plumbing

Refrigerants – Past, Present & Future

Presenter: Jim Cika

This session provides insight into the state of HVAC refrigerants past, present and future. Topics addressed include drivers to refrigerant changes in the U.S., the impacts of changes on codes and standards, and where refrigerants are going in the future. Participants will understand the changes taking place in the HVAC industry with regards to refrigerant changes and equipment safety. They will be able to identify essential code provisions that address the safe use of refrigerants. They will have a better understanding of the origins of change impacting the future of refrigerants in the U.S.

BM Furnace and Water Heater Panel Discussion

Presenter: Mark Fasel

Join us for an in-depth learning course focusing on the upcoming 2026+ Department of Energy (DOE) thermal efficiency standards impacting commercial water heaters and residential furnaces. This panel discussion will feature industry experts from the International Code Council and our stakeholders, who will provide valuable insights into the transition towards condensing and heat pump technologies. Participants will explore the technical implications of regulatory changes on equipment selection and system design, including venting,

condensate management, and the shift from non-condensing to condensing systems. The course will also cover common installation and retrofit challenges, including new equipment requirements, and give you practical strategies to handle them. Engage in lively discussions on market readiness, compliance pathways, and best practices, while posing your questions to industry leaders. By the end of this course, you'll be well-prepared to adapt to the evolving landscape of HVAC technology and efficiency regulations. Don't miss this opportunity to stay ahead in an ever-changing industry!

Cutting, Notching & Drilling in the Built Environment

Presenter: Lisa Reiheld

This session provides an overview of the provisions that are in place throughout the IPC, IFGC, IBC, and IRC that protect both the plumbing and fuel gas piping as well as maintaining the structural integrity of the structure elements where the same piping is installed. It reviews the structural safety requirements from the IBC and IRC and how they are referenced in the IPC and IFGC, demonstrating the limits to location, geometry, and overall size when it is necessary to remove material from structural members in order to install piping. Additionally, it discusses how piping must be protected when concealed to protect from damage as well as protected against freezing when buried.

2027 IPC/IMC/IFGC Sneak Peek

Presenter: Gary Gauthier

This seminar introduces participants to the major changes in the 2021 IPC, IMC and IFGC. Participants will discuss the changes, reasons for the changes, and take part in knowledge review activities. Information presented will allow participants to apply these new code requirements to design, plan review, and/or inspection.

Permit Technician

Beyond the Permit Counter: How Permit Techs Support Smart Development and Code Compliance

Presenter: Carmen Moore

Permit technicians play a critical role in the development review process and are often the first point of contact for applicants navigating zoning, permitting, and code compliance requirements. This session explores how permit technicians support smart development through early issue identification, interdepartmental coordination, application review, and effective communication. Participants will learn practical strategies to improve permit intake efficiency, and reduce processing delays. The goal is to enhance customer service while maintaining compliance with adopted codes and development regulations.

Over the Counter Plan Review

Presenter: Carey Frazier

This interactive course provides an in-depth look at various permit types, plan review processes, and how over the counter (OTC) permit reviews are handled within a building department. Participants will gain insight into how to identify permits eligible for the OTC process and understand the workflow efficiencies they offer. Using real-world examples, we will walk through plan review steps for both residential and commercial projects typically processed as OTC, such as accessory structures, fencing, door/window replacements, Certificates of Occupancy, re-roofs, and sign permits. The class will highlight best practices, common review considerations, and the criteria for determining eligibility for OTC processing.

Construction Terminology

Presenter: Jessie Sorensen

Permit Technicians often encounter construction terminology and "code" language at the front counter, in the field, and during the plan review process. This course helps participants recognize common building components, understand key construction and code terminology, and identify how construction concepts appear in real-world applications through the review of actual inspection photographs and basic plans. Students will gain confidence communicating with inspectors, contractors, homeowners, and design professionals while improving front-counter permit completeness reviews and understanding terminology commonly found in permit applications, plan review comments, and inspection reports.

Advancing Your Career: Navigating the Path to Leadership in Building Safety

Presenter: George Reid

This 90-minute panel discussion brings together former permit technicians who have advanced into leadership roles and explores their professional journey from entry-level permitting roles to leadership positions within building departments. Designed for permit technicians, early-career inspectors, and administrative staff, this session provides a practical and candid look at career advancement in the building safety profession. Panelists will share personal career stories, highlighting pivotal moments, challenges, and opportunities that shaped their progression. Topics will include building technical knowledge, obtaining key certifications (such as ICC credentials), developing leadership and communication skills, and understanding the regulatory and administrative responsibilities of a building official. The discussion will also address how to gain field experience, build professional networks, and position yourself for promotional opportunities within both small and large jurisdictions. Participants will leave with actionable strategies for career planning, insight into the expectations of building officials, and a clearer understanding of the skills and competencies needed to advance. The session will conclude with a facilitated Q&A, allowing attendees to engage directly with panelists and receive tailored advice for their own career paths.