

ICC Government Relations Monthly Update – March 2021



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‘Prevent, Prepare, Protect’: Building Safety Month proclamations are available for you to use

Each May, [Building Safety Month](#) is the code official’s [opportunity to raise the profile](#) of their professions and to educate consumers, decision makers and other stake holders about their value to America’s economic growth and safety. This year’s observance theme is “**Prevent, Prepare, Protect. Building Codes Save.**” One of the best grassroots opportunities to amplify the value of code officials and building codes is the Building Safety Month proclamations. The [2021 proclamation draft is available here](#) with a guide which can be downloaded. Do not overlook this opportunity to have your ICC Chapter President to sign a proclamation on behalf of your chapter. And don’t miss the opportunity to have 2021 BSM proclamations signed by mayors, county commission chairs, state legislators, Governors and associations and businesses who support a safe and resilient built environment. More can be found at www.buildingsafetymonth.org. To view and download this year’s campaign poster, click [here](#). Follow along on social media using the hashtag #BuildingSafety365. [Read more here](#).

SIGN UP: Registration is now open for the International Code Council Committee Action Hearings

The International Code Council will conduct the 2021 Committee Action Hearings (CAH) from April 11 to May 5 for Group A Codes virtually for the first time in the organization’s history. This year’s code hearings offer code officials, architects, builders, engineers, and fire and energy conservation professionals the opportunity to provide input on proposed code changes to the Group A International Codes. The proceedings will be live streamed at a provided web link. Attendees will be able to soon [sign up here](#) to receive text message updates about the progress of code change hearings. Sessions are open to the media and public. Registration is required to participate or view. Please [register at no cost here](#).

- Check out the [2021/2022 Code Development Schedule](#) and see page 2 for details on code chapters, notes and committee information for the Group A codes.
- Download infographics about the process: [How It Works](#) and [By The Numbers](#).
- For more information about the code development process, [click here](#).
- Group A code changes are to be [posted here](#).

For registration and hearing procedural questions, email the ICC Customer Success Center at customersuccess@iccsafe.org or phone 888-ICC-SAFE (888-422-7233), ext. 0. [Read more here](#).

March 15 is the deadline for Annual Chapter Report and nominees for the 2021 ICC annual awards

The official due date is March 15 for both the Annual Chapter Report and the nominees for the ICC annual awards. Chapter leaders may go to their “myICC” page and click on “Chapters” to submit their reports. The Code Council presents awards in several categories each year to honor individuals and organizations for their accomplishments and service to the Code Council and the building safety industry. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to apply for the awards presented at various events, including at the Code Council Annual Conference in September. [Click here to view the 2020 award recipients](#).

SAVE THE DATES: Code Council will open registration soon for second **ICC Learn Live** April 19-22

After the success of last November’s [ICC Learn Live](#) event, the Code Council will offer another virtual training series this spring where you can join your fellow professionals, earn valuable CEUs, and learn more about the most pressing issues and priorities for building safety professionals. This year’s event will take place April 19-22 and [registration will open in mid-March](#). Watch your emails for more.

ICC and NAACP examine how building regulations support sustainable communities on March 2

The International Code Council and the NAACP Centering Equity in the Sustainable Building Sector (CESBS) Initiative have joined to lead a critical conversation about the role of building codes at the

upcoming webinar, “Cracking the Code: Using building regulations to support a more sustainable community.” The presenters at this webinar on March 2 are:

- [Henry L. Green](#), Hon. AIA and former President of the ICC Board of Directors
- [Anthony Floyd](#), Fellow AIA, BEAP, Member ASHRAE, LEED® AP, Senior Green Building/Energy Code Consultant for the City of Scottsdale
- [Kathryn Wright](#), Urban Sustainability Directory’s Network Programs Director, Building Energy
- [Alice Sung](#), Founding Principal, Greenbank Associates, and Participant at the 2020 U.S. Grassroots Accelerator

Taking an environmental and climate justice lens, the webinar will focus on assessing areas of improvement and strategies to ensure that building codes protect frontline communities and result from deep democracy. [Read more here.](#)

Pandemics Task Force draws 85 participants and identifies seven work groups at recent first meeting

The ICC [Pandemics Task Force](#) held its kickoff meeting on February 24 with more than 85 participants. The following seven work groups were identified for future research: Architectural, fire safety, structural, plumbing and mechanical, electrical, environmental and operations. Those interested in joining one of the work groups should contact Neil Burning, Task Force Liaison, nburning@iccsafe.org.

ICC partners with ACCA and RESNET to develop new standard for grading HVAC system installations

The Code Council’s partnership with the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) and the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) has yielded the *ANSI/RESNET/ACCA/ICC 310-2020 Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems*. The new standard is the product of a collaborative effort that establishes procedures, tolerances, and record keeping practices for evaluating and grading elements of an HVAC system’s design and installation. It applies to Unitary HVAC systems and is comprised of five tasks: a design review, a total duct leakage test, a Blower Fan volumetric airflow test, a Blower Fan watt draw test, and a noninvasive evaluation of refrigerant charge. [Read more here.](#)

PEI acquisition enhances ICC’s product testing, evaluation, inspection, off-site construction offerings

The International Code Council recently announced it has acquired [Progressive Engineering Inc.](#) (PEI), a product testing, evaluation and inspection agency. Based out of Goshen, Indiana, PEI will expand the Code Council’s offerings in the commercial off-site construction space. PEI has been recognized nationally for its expertise in architecture, engineering, surveying, soil borings, product testing, evaluation, and inspections. [Read more here.](#)

New agreement between ICC and RESNET strengthens efforts to improve energy code compliance

The Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) and the International Code Council entered into a formal agreement to build a stronger relationship between the two organizations and to improve energy code compliance. The goals of the agreement are for RESNET and the Code Council to:

- Position HERS® Raters as a resource in improving energy code compliance, cooperation on advocacy and public policy matters, which both organizations support.
- Explore and implement joint business opportunities that benefit both organizations members.
- Collaborate to jointly optimize the development of codes and standards to improve safety, affordability and energy efficiency in the built environment.

“While we continue to improve the energy efficiency requirements in model codes, we cannot ignore the fact that the most critical component of these codes is their proper enforcement,” ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO, said. “Code officials will have an opportunity to leverage certified IECC/HERS Compliance Specialists as individuals with knowledge and experience in the building sciences and the inspection and testing of a home’s energy performance.” [Read more here.](#)

TAKE THE SURVEY: Code Council wants to learn from your on-site, off-site construction experiences

The Code Council is conducting a survey on remote virtual inspections and electronic plan review and wants to know your experience with inspections and plan review for on-site and off-site/prefabricated

construction. Survey participants will help improve offerings in these areas and will receive the model program guide on remote virtual inspections to share with your team when it's ready. [Join the survey](#).

Growing interest in better visualization of projects inspires new technologies and cost/time savings

Mounting demand from healthcare clients for better visualization of projects throughout design and construction inspired architecture firms to turn to technology to provide a window into what a building will look like, long before it's open. However, those solutions — virtual reality, 3-D modeling and drone fly-throughs — have come with additional benefits, as well. Now designers are realizing cost and time savings as well as enhanced project team communication. [Read more here](#).

Global Resiliency Dialogue releases report detailing consideration of climate risk in building codes

The Global Resiliency Dialogue published findings of its first international survey in the report, *The Use of Climate Data and Assessment of Extreme Weather Event Risks in Building Codes around the World*. The Global Resiliency Dialogue was established in 2019 by The International Code Council, the Australian Building Codes Board, the National Research Council of Canada, and the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, to foster global collaboration in addressing evolving climate risks in codes and standards. The aim is to create an international resiliency guideline and enable collaborative research efforts to aid jurisdictions to better prepare the building stock to withstand the more extreme weather events, including high wind, flooding, and wildfire, that the evidence and science tells us have been and will continue to increase in frequency and duration. [Read more here](#).

Report on California's deadly Camp Fire of 2018 provides communities insights on multi-pronged fires

The Camp Fire was the costliest disaster worldwide in 2018, causing 85 deaths and destroying more than 18,000 buildings. It is the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history. A new report from the National Institute of Standards and Technology reviews the Camp Fire's multi-pronged attack. Research into these threats could fill critical knowledge gaps, paving the way for science-based codes, standards and practices that could help communities outsmart fires. [View the report here](#).

TRUST BUT VERIFY: IAS senior accreditation officer explains how certification provides protections

The certification decision review for management systems is the one time any certification entity, other than the auditor, can make a technical determination regarding the effectiveness of a system. Patrick McCullen, International Accreditation Service senior accreditation officer, explains how in the conformity assessment industry, the certification decision is the last firewall protecting certification bodies from malpractice, ambiguity and liability when it comes to certified customers. [Read more here](#).

Code Council's Digital Codes Premium system updates accounts with an auto-renew feature

The [ICC Digital Codes](#) now automatically updates Premium Subscription accounts with an auto-renew payment when current subscription periods expire, which simplifies account payments. Subscribers also access [new codes, custom codes and standards each month](#). With auto-renewal subscribers will:

- Save time and eliminate the hassle of manual payments
- Decrease missed or late payments which may disrupt access
- Avoid multiple renewal notices

Once the update is complete, subscribers will receive an email notification that their accounts have been updated. To manage or update Premium subscription(s), including billing, view history or cancellation, [click here](#) or select Digital Products and Subscriptions under the My Account menu. Otherwise no further action is necessary. For any questions, please email support@iccsafe.org. Learn more about the Digital Codes Premium Complete in [this 60-minute webinar on March 10](#).

***GOT PULSE?* GR's Gabe Maser talks with Edward Laatsch about FEMA's report 'Building Codes Save'**

In [Episode 37](#) of ICC's Pulse Podcast, [Gabe Maser](#), Code Council Vice President of Government Relations and National Strategy, talks with [Edward Laatsch](#), Director of the Planning, Safety and Building Science Division, about FEMA's recent report *Building Codes Save – A Nationwide Study of Loss Prevention*.

A note to Code Council members about our friends and colleagues recovering from extreme cold

While much of the rest of the nation has experienced a winter with its anticipated cold temperatures, high winds, snow, sleet and ice, our fellow citizens and colleagues in Texas have endured another damaging and threatening assault from the weather. This time it was a record-jarring deep freeze and its related power outages and water shortages in Texas and portions of Louisiana and Oklahoma. The Code Council contributed \$10,000 through two of its partners to assist with the state's recovery. More importantly, we hope everyone remains aware as the state continues to recover from the extreme winter weather and the resulting crisis.

Upcoming from the Code Council Learning Center: Institutes, training, webinars, etc.

Online learning is available from the [ICC Learning Center](#). Find course [listings you'd like to attend](#) in the ICC Learning Center using the Search function. Single-day training events are an opportunity to focus on topics to ensure your code knowledge stays up to date, with some seminars offering a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection:

- **March 1-5 – [EduCode 2021](#).**
- **March 2 – 2018 IMC® Webinar Series: [Administration and General Requirements](#).**
- **March 3 – Permit Tech Webinar Series: [Overview of Code Enforcement](#).**
- **March 4 – [Legal Aspects of Code Administration \(Virtual\)](#).**
- **March 9 - [2018 IECC® Essentials](#).**
- **March 10 - Permit Tech Webinar Series: [Reading Construction Documents](#).**
- **March 11 - [2018 IWUIC Virtual Training](#).**
- **March 16 - 2018 IMC® Webinar Series: [Ventilation and Duct Systems](#).**
- **March 16 - [Inspector Skills](#).**
- **March 17 - Permit Tech Webinar Series: [Finding the Answers in the I-Codes®](#).**
- **March 18 - [2018 IFC® Essentials](#).**
- **March 22-26 - [2018 Residential Building Inspection Institute](#).**
- **March 23 - 2018 IMC® Webinar Series: [Exhaust Systems](#).**
- **March 24 - Permit Tech Webinar Series: [Building Department Processes](#).**
- **March 30 - 2018 IMC® Webinar Series: [Combustion Air and Venting](#)**
- **March 31 - Leadership Webinar Series: [Mastering the Art of Mentorship](#).**
- **April 6 - 2018 IMC® Webinar Series: [Boilers and Hydronic Piping](#).**
- **April 7- [2018 IFC® and IBC® Hazardous Materials Provisions](#).**
- **April 7 - Permit Tech Webinar Series: [Legal Principles](#).**
- **April 8 - [2018 IRC® Performing Residential Plumbing Inspections](#).**
- **April 13 - 2018 IMC® Webinar Series: [Refrigeration, Fuel Oil Piping and Storage and Solar Systems](#).**
- **April 14 - 2018 IPC Webinar Series: [Chapters 1, 2 and 3](#).**
- **April 15 - [Advanced Legal Aspects of Code Administration for Building Officials and Inspectors](#).**
- **April 16 - [Getting the Most out of the 2018 IPMC®](#).**
- **April 19-23 - [2018 Plan Review](#).**
- **April 20 - Code Enforcement Webinar Series: [Officer Safety in Hazardous Buildings](#).**
- **April 21 - [2021 IBC® Significant Changes](#).**
- **April 21 - 2018 IPC Webinar Series: [Chapters 4, 5 and 6](#).**
- **April 22 - Leadership Webinar Series: [Making a Difference](#).**
- **April 27 - Code Enforcement Webinar Series: [Drug Awareness for Code Enforcement Officer](#).**
- **April 27-28 - [When Disaster Strikes](#).**
- **April 28 - 2018 IPC Webinar Series: [Chapters 7 and 8](#).**
- **April 29-30 - [2018 Commercial Building Inspection](#)**
- **May 3-7 - [2018 Residential Building Inspector - B1 Certification Test Academy](#).**
- **May 4 - Code Enforcement Webinar Series: [Gang Awareness for the Code Enforcement Officer](#).**
- **May 5 - 2018 IPC Webinar Series: [Chapters 9 and 10](#).**
- **May 11 - Code Enforcement Webinar Series: [Mental Illness and Code Enforcement](#).**

- May 12 - 2018 IPC Webinar Series: [Chapters 11–14](#).
- May 12-14 - [2018 Building Plans Examiner - B3 Certification Test Academy](#).
- May 13 - [Complaint Management from Start to Finish](#).
- May 17-19 - [2018 Permit Tech Certification Test Academy](#).
- May 24-28 - [2018 Commercial Building Inspector - B2 Certification Test Academy](#).
- May 26 - [Report Writing for the Code Official](#).
- May 27 - [Basic Code Enforcement](#).

Check out more [upcoming learning opportunities here](#).