

ICC [Government Relations](#) Monthly Update – October 2020

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CEU OPPORTUNITIES: ICC hosts virtual panel events, keynotes & breakouts on building safety topics

The International Code Council offers its inaugural virtual education summit, [ICC LEARN LIVE](#), a five-day virtual event which includes a series of panel sessions and keynotes from building industry experts. ICC Learn Live will address the most pressing issues and priorities for building safety professionals such as training the next generation of talent, the impact of COVID-19 on building safety and the economy, adopting virtual capabilities, and an in-depth overview of the upcoming 2021 International Codes (I-Codes). [Educational sessions offer continuing education units \(CEUs\)](#). Just a few of the sessions are:

- **Monday, November 9, at 3 p.m. ET - COVID-19 Global Impact Panel.** A group of distinguished international panelists will discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on the building safety industry. Speakers will address economic impact, best practices and pandemic strategy. [Register here.](#)
- **Tuesday, November 10, at 11 a.m. ET - Sneak Peek at 2021 Code Changes.** The Code Council will debut significant changes to be released in the 2021 I-Codes. Get a sneak peek at the updated building, residential, fire and plumbing codes. [Register here.](#)
- **Wednesday, November 11, at noon ET - Remote Virtual Inspections – Recommended Practices.** Recently, the Code Council released [Recommended Practices for Virtual Inspections](#). This overview will include suggestions for implementing an effective and consistent remote virtual inspections program and how to assist jurisdictions in adapting readily available technologies in their own inspection programs. [Register here.](#)
- **Thursday, November 12, at 3 p.m. ET - Evolution of Careers Building Safety Panel.** A panel of industry experts will provide discuss the industry's need for new professionals and the various ways to get involved. [Register here.](#)
- **Friday, November 13, at noon ET - Keynote Address: Discovering the Building Safety Profession and Networking.** [Eric "Doc" Wright](#), Founder and CEO of [Vets2PM](#), LLC, and [Amazon #1 best seller](#), will share his experience as a Veteran entering a new career. [Register here.](#)

Having launched its [Coronavirus Response Center](#) earlier this year, the Code Council's ICC Learn Live event is the next step to provide building code officials, construction workers and others with resources and tools necessary to adapt. For more information and to register for ICC Learn Live, click [here](#).

Next ICC Board of Directors meeting on appeals from the 2019 Group B code cycle is set to start Oct. 5

The ICC Board of Directors recently issued a final decision on the first two groups of appeals related to the 2019 Group B code cycle – preemption and committee reconsideration – and outlined next steps. The Board will meet again on Monday, October 5, to consider the remaining appeals. These appeals are one part of a longer code development process that is responsive, transparent and open. For more information about this process and how it creates the most widely used and adopted set of building safety codes in the world, [click here](#). For the recent release on the Board's decisions, [click here](#).

ICC and FEMA team up to explain BRIC's grant funding for building and fire prevention departments

The Code Council hosted a webinar (that's available for viewing) on the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program on September 16 which featured leaders from FEMA and state and local governments. They outlined [funding opportunities for building and fire prevention departments](#) through BRIC and shared best practices for how to successfully leverage BRIC grants through coordination with hazard mitigation officials. BRIC is FEMA's new \$500 million mitigation grant program. It prioritizes the adoption and enforcement of hazard resistant building codes and makes funding available for adoption activities (including staff time and [consultant](#) costs), [training](#), [certifications](#), [electronic permitting](#), [building department accreditation](#) and [online access to codes and standards](#). Brick

and mortar mitigation projects are competitive candidates for funding based on state adopted codes and local [BCEGS scores](#). Click [here](#) to access webinar playback. Download webinar slides [here](#).

- [Click here](#) for a fact sheet with key information on how BRIC promotes the adoption and enforcement of hazard resistant codes.
- [Click here](#) for additional information on the Code Council's *When Disaster Strikes Institute*, which FEMA mentions in its [BRIC materials on eligible code activities](#).

Code Council staff focused on assessing wildfire damages, causes and prevention strategies

No region is immune to the threat of wildfires, but this year's multi-state wildfires in the West are boosting interest in the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) and revising strategies to prevent or contain future wildfires. A recent [New York Times article](#) describes the situation: "Millions of Americans are moving into wildfire-prone areas outside of cities, and communities often resist restrictions on development. A century of federal policy to aggressively extinguish all wildfires rather than letting some burn at low levels, [an approach now seen as misguided](#), has left forests with plenty of fuel for especially destructive blazes ... loading the dice for more extensive fires." Karl Fippinger, Vice President, ICC Government Relations Fire and Disaster Mitigation, said that while most of the fire service community's focus is on [extinguishing the West Coast states' fires](#), ICC members and staff are preparing to update the IWUIC to changing needs. Members can engage in IWUIC development for the 2024 I-Codes in a variety of ways. The Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) is meeting regularly and sponsors an IWUIC work group that is open to all members. Members can also [submit code change proposals for the 2024 IWUIC](#) via [cdpACCESS](#) beginning mid-October until January 11. The IWUIC is among the Group A Codes. The public can learn more about the [2021 IWUIC](#) which can be ordered. The ICC Government Relations webpage also has a [page dedicated to helping communities](#) prevent wildfire destruction. For information on the FCAC, email Beth Tubbs, Senior Staff Engineer with the International Code Council (ICC) Codes and Standards Development department, BTubbs@iccsafe.org, or Karl Fippinger, KFippinger@iccsafe.org.

Second building, fire officials survey continues monitoring how they cope with pandemic issues

Results of a follow up survey of building and fire prevention officials to learn how code officials cope with professional challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the importance of additional federal resources for code departments. The survey, conducted August 11 to September 3, documented information from more than 800 respondents from jurisdictions that range in size from 700 people to 4 million. Although the U.S. Department of Homeland Security [has determined](#) the work of building and fire prevention departments to be essential to the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic—and no state has made a contrary determination—about half of survey respondents did not have the capability to remotely carry out critical aspects of their work. That's an improvement from 6 in 10 in April, but still unacceptable given code departments' [vital role](#) in communities' pandemic response, resilience, economic recovery and long-term success. "The results of this survey show how, in less five months, the Code Council's governmental members have worked to ensure their departments can continue to protect public safety and spur economic activity in a virtual work environment," said Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. "But too many departments have outstanding needs. It's critical that sufficient resources to support building and fire prevention departments are provided by state and local governments through existing CARES Act funds and by the federal government through any subsequent economic stimulus package." [Read more here](#).

ICC Community Development Solutions Partners with *Inspected* to facilitate remote virtual inspections

[ICC Community Development Solutions](#) and [Inspected](#), a virtual inspection software company, recently announced a joint partnership to make remote virtual inspections accessible to code officials, homeowners and contractors. ICC Community Development Solutions, a subsidiary of the International Code Council that provides software solutions for municipalities and building safety professionals, will offer *Inspected's* remote video inspection software to Code Council members, partners, municipalities,

and government jurisdictions to conduct effective and consistent virtual inspections. *Inspected's* patent-pending software provides a secure platform specifically designed to implement and manage remote virtual inspections with features such as automatic algorithmic geo-tagging, photo and video recording, scheduling, record-keeping, and cloud storage capabilities. [Read more here.](#)

Major Jurisdiction Committee wants to share ICC members' "Best Practices" in local jurisdictions

The Code Council's Major Jurisdiction Committee (MJC) is seeking ICC member input on "Best Practices" that they or their jurisdictions have either developed or experienced in a code administration environment. Best Practices will be expanded to include both MJC vetted best practices and best practices vetted through the International Accreditation Services (IAS) process. All submittals will conform to a format to simplify the search process. Further, IAS has a series of categories that all best practices will be catalogued per the IAS methodology to enhance ease of use. If you or your jurisdiction have a best practice to share, please do so. Online submissions information and the MJC's Best Practices page are accessible by [clicking here](#). The MJC leadership will be giving a presentation during **ICC LEARN LIVE** and would like to feature some new Best Practices, especially any that have been developed during and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ICC receives Commerce Department grant to support publication, implementing of Gulf building codes

The International Code Council will receive the Market Development Cooperator Program (MDCP) grant to partially underwrite the work the Code Council will undertake with the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO) to publish a suite of regional model building codes. The grant is a major show of support for the work undertaken by the GSO since that organization entered into an [agreement with the Code Council in 2016](#) to begin work developing the unified Gulf Building Code. The work to develop the Gulf Building Code has been underway for the past four years, involving stakeholders based in all Gulf Cooperation Council member states, and the development process is now in its final stages. [Read more.](#)

Deadline is October 18 to submit comments on solar thermal collectors and systems standards

The deadline is October 18 to submit comments on ICC/SRCC standards for solar thermal collectors and systems which are currently being revised under [ICC's ANSI-approved standard development procedures](#). The IS-STSC has released additional draft changes to the documents for a second public comment period. The **Public Review #2 Package** document contains proposed changes shown in strikeout and underline format, along with the required comment form and instructions for submitting comments. Comments will only be accepted on these draft changes to the documents developed by the committee since Public Review #1. To be accepted, comments must include specific changes to the language in the standard proposed, and a rationale. [Click here](#) for the Public Review Package document. Have questions? Visit the [project website](#) or [contact the staff secretariat](#).

Code Council's PRONTO now offers five new exams based on the 2021 International Codes

The Assessment Center at the International Code Council recently announced the addition of four new exams based on the 2021 International Codes — M2 - Commercial Mechanical Inspector; M3 - Mechanical Plans Examiner; P2 - Commercial Plumbing Inspector; and P3 - Plumbing Plans Examiner. The exams are conveniently offered through the PRONTO (Proctored Remote Online Testing Option). Look for more to be added within the coming months. [Read more here](#). The Assessment Center also recently announced the new Tall Mass Timber Special Inspector certification. The certification exam is now conveniently available via the PRONTO. [Read more here](#).

Changes to lead reduction regulations finalized by EPA to lower lead content of plumbing products

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized its changes to existing regulations to provide a framework of compliance under the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act of 2011 (RLDWA), which lowered the allowable maximum lead content of plumbing products to further protect the public from lead used in plumbing materials that provide water for human consumption. [The final rule](#) "requires

manufacturers with 10 or more employees, and importers entering products purchased from or manufactured by manufacturers with 10 or more employees, to obtain third-party certification by an ANSI-accredited third-party certification body.” The plumbing manufacturing industry began transitioning products to new lower lead levels circa 2014. Even better, the 2015 IPC and IRC were amended to reflect RLDWA lead content requirements in drinking water pipes, pipe fittings, joints, valves, faucets and fixture fittings. For several years, ICC Evaluation Service has offered certification service to the requirements of NSF/ANSI 372 and is available to address certification needs. For questions, contact ICC Vice President of PMG Programs Guy Tomberlin at gtomberlin@iccsafe.org.

ALSC reports more non-ALS lumber grade marks appearing in Missouri and New Hampshire

The American Lumber Standard Committee alerted its members and industry that a lumber grade stamp was recently observed in Missouri and New Hampshire. Similar reports surfaced this year from New York, Texas, Georgia, Massachusetts and North Carolina. The stamp “No.2” does not come from any ALSC-accredited inspection agency, there are no ALS-approved design values that are attributable to lumber bearing this stamp and it should not be represented as a structural lumber product under the ALSC system. [Read more here](#).

Code Council announces updates to Building Valuation Data to aid in calculating permit fees

The Code Council recently announced updates to [Building Valuation Data](#) (BVD) for its members. The BVD is updated at six-month intervals, with the next update in February 2021. The Code Council strongly recommends that all jurisdictions and other interested parties actively evaluate and assess the impact of this BVD table before utilizing it in their current code enforcement related activities. The BVD table provides “average” construction costs per square foot, which can be used in determining permit fees. Permit fee schedules are addressed in Section 109.2 of the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) whereas Section 109.3 addresses building permit valuations. Permit fees can be established by using the BVD table and a Permit Fee Multiplier, which is based on the total construction value within the jurisdiction for the past year. [Read more here](#).

Residential Seismic Assessment and Retrofit Standard Consensus Committee to Meet for First Time

A virtual meeting of the [Code Council’s Residential Seismic Assessment and Retrofit Standard Consensus Committee](#) (IS-RSARC) will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. CT on October 16 to discuss the development of the ICC 1300 standard. As an American National Standards Institute accredited standards developing organization, the Code Council is undertaking a project coordinated with the California Earthquake Authority and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a Code Council standard for the seismic evaluation and retrofit of one- and two-family dwellings (including townhouses) designated as ICC 1300, Standard for the Vulnerability-Based Seismic Assessment and Retrofit of One- and Two-Family Dwellings.

Call for Committee on the Consensus Committee On Log Structures has a November 1 deadline

As an ANSI accredited standards developing organization, the Code Council is revising the ICC 400, Standard on the Design and Construction of Log Structures, to maintain the standard with current industry practice. The application deadline to serve on the committee is November 1. Once appointed, this committee will convene to undergo the revision process in accordance with ANSI Essential Requirements for the development of American National Standards. This Committee has primary responsibility for minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through design, construction and installation requirements for log and heavy timber structures. Visit the [IS-LOG committee webpage](#) for current news updates on committee activities. For more information on the ICC procedures for developing standards, refer to the ICC Consensus Procedures [posted here](#).

Code Council CEO Dominic Sims is featured in recent Plumbing and Mechanical homepage PM Profile

Plumbing & Mechanical recently interviewed International Code Council CEO Dominic Sims about the current landscape for codes and standards and the plumbing industry overall. Sims has led ICC since 2012 and is responsible for overall activities and financial performance of the organization. The article is titled “International Code Council helps plumbing industry pros navigate new normal post COVID-19 pandemic.” [Click here to link to the article.](#)

Compliance forms to support energy code compliance and training opportunities announced

New [compliance forms](#) were recently developed to support demonstrating commercial building energy code compliance with the performance-based approaches of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2016 and 2019 Energy Cost Budget and Appendix G Performance Rating Methods. These forms will help modelers establish simulation inputs for the baseline/budget and proposed design models and include submittal checklists to ensure that all necessary supporting documentation is included in compliance submittals. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is hosting two training webinars, the first of which was held September 29. The [next will be 1-3 p.m. Eastern](#) on December 8. [Read more here.](#)

Recipients of six sponsored scholarships to children of Code Council members announced

The International Code Council recently awarded [six sponsored scholarships](#) to children of Code Council members. The 2020 recipients include:

- **General Scholarship Fund** – Charlee Bichara, daughter of Charles Bichara of the city of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, and Gavin Justice, son of Trace Justice, Snohomish County, Wash.
- **William J. Tangye Scholarship** - Mason Moritz, son of William Moritz of Monterey, California.
- **C. D. Howard Scholarship** - Autumn Carlson, daughter of Ricky Carlson of the Phoenix City Alabama building department.
- **J. W. “Bill” Neese Scholarship** – Heather Beck, daughter of Robert M. Beck of the Clark County Nevada School District.
- **Charlie O’Meilia Scholarship** – Elizabeth Ann Greiner, daughter of Mary L. Martinelli, St. Petersburg, Fla.

***GOT PULSE?* Episode 30 features former ICC Board President Steve Jones and *Inspected’s* Johnny Goetz**

In this episode of the ICC Pulse Podcast, Code Council Government Relations Senior Regional Manager [Steve Jones](#) hosts a dialogue with *Inspected* Director of Government Relations [Johnny Goetz](#), about remote virtual inspections and how building safety professionals can implement this method.

Upcoming from the [ICC 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 [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:

- **October 5 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series, [Special Occupancies and Operations.](#)**
- **October 6 – IMC Webinar Series, [Refrigeration, Fuel Oil Piping and Storage and Solar Systems.](#)**
- **October 7 - [Legal Aspects of Code Administration](#)**
- **October 12 - [2018 Building Plans Examiner Certification Test Academy B3.](#)**
- **October 13 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series, [Regulated Materials and Processes .](#)**
- **October 15 - [2019 Chicago Construction Codes.](#)**
- **October 15 - [2018 IFGC Webinar Series: Gas Piping Installations.](#)**
- **October 20 - [2018 IPC Webinar Series: Chapters 1, 2 and 3.](#)**
- **October 21- [Leadership Webinar Series: Public Speaking.](#)**
- **October 26 - [2018 Permit Technician 14 Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **October 27 - [2018 IPC Webinar Series: Chapters 4, 5 and 6.](#)**

- October 29 - [2018 IFGC Webinar Series: Gas Piping Installations - Gas Sizing Systems.](#)
- November 3 - [2018 Commercial Building Inspection Institute.](#)
- November 3 - [2018 IPC Webinar Series: Chapters 7 and 8.](#)
- November 4 - [When Disaster Strikes.](#)
- November 5 - [2018 IBC Means of Egress.](#)
- November 5 - [2018 IFGC Webinar Series: Chimneys and Vents.](#)
- November 9 – [ICC LEARN LIVE COVID-19 Global Impact Panel.](#)
- November 10 – [ICC LEARN LIVE Sneak Peek at 2021 Code Changes.](#)
- November 11 – [ICC LEARN LIVE Remote Virtual Inspections – Recommended Practices.](#)
- November 12 – [ICC LEARN LIVE Evolution of Careers Building Safety Panel.](#)
- November 13 – [ICC LEARN LIVE Discovering the Building Safety Profession and Networking.](#)
- November 18 - [Essential Skills for Rising Leaders.](#)
- November 19 - [Virtual Training Room on Mass Timber Building and the IBC.](#)
- Available daily online, [2015 Permit Technician 14 Study Guide.](#)
- Available daily online, [IRC® Online Study Guide for Residential Building Inspectors B1.](#)

Plus check out more upcoming virtual learning and webinar offerings here:

- [Virtual landing page](#) [Webinar landing page](#)