

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

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## **Deadline is March 15 to complete ICC Chapter Annual Report, using “new, improved” online format**

Karla Price Higgs, Vice President Member Services, said the “new, improved” ICC Chapter Annual Report application will make the report process easier. The deadline to complete the reports is March 15 on the application, located in the ICC website. To open it, log in to your **myICC** page and click on “Chapters.” Then follow the prompts to “Add Annual Report.” “When you choose to complete the two-part report, your Chapter will be eligible for all benefits programs, including your Chapter Education Benefit Day, the Chapter Rewards Program, and the Chapter Awards program,” she said. Questions or comments? Contact the ICC Chapter Relations office by phone 888-ICC-SAFE x5268, or email [chapters@iccsafe.org](mailto:chapters@iccsafe.org).

## **COUNTDOWN TO 2020 BSM: Do-it-yourself proclamation guide offers opportunities to celebrate**

[Building Safety Month](#) can start now with your [Building Safety Month Proclamation Guide](#), a do-it-yourself kit online on the ICC website. The instructions, the language for the 2020 BSM Proclamations, suggestions for signing events, how to send your proclamation in and other ideas are in one spot to help you along. Who should sign the 2020 BSM Proclamation? Your city council and mayor. Your county commission chair. Your City Building Official on behalf of your department. Your Chamber of Commerce. Important stake holders in your community’s and state’s built environment. Building Safety Month is your profession’s opportunity to shine. The work you do everyday is designed to protect lives and property and to make communities stronger economically, more attractive and resilient. Share the spotlight [with events](#) and [educational handouts](#). For more information about the campaign, visit [www.buildingsafetymonth.org](http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org). Follow along on social media using the hashtag #BuildingSafety365.

## **2020 Building Safety Month’s weekly themes illustrate the reach and importance of the building codes**

While the primary theme of the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Building Safety Month, “Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World,” illustrates the broad appeal of the occasion, it’s the weekly themes that break down the wide variety of safety, economic and societal benefits communities enjoy by keeping their building codes updated with the latest model codes. The [weekly themes](#) are:

- [Week One](#), May 1-10: **Disaster Preparedness**
- [Week Two](#), May 11-17: **Water Safety**
- [Week Three](#), May 18-24: **Resiliency. Sustainability. Innovation.**
- [Week Four](#), May 25-31: **Training the Next Generation**

## **Call for nominations says the deadline is April 1 for 2020 Code Council’s annual awards**

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their exemplary dedication? Nominations are being accepted for [ICC Awards to honor individuals and organizations](#) for their service to ICC and the building safety industry. The awards will be presented at various events, including but not limited to the 2020 Code Council Annual Conference in St. Louis. To nominate someone for a Code Council Award, complete and email the form attached here to Karla Price Higgs, Vice President, Member Services, at [Awards@iccsafe.org](mailto:Awards@iccsafe.org). The deadline to submit nominations for this year’s ICC Awards is **April 1, 2020**.

## **Atlantic City is the site for the spring meetings of the ICC Membership Council Governing Committees**

The [ICC Membership Council Governing Committees](#) (except for the Global Membership Council) and the [Major Jurisdiction Committee](#) will be among those gathering in late April in Atlantic City, New Jersey, at Bally’s Hotel and Casino. The main event is the [2020 Code Council Leadership Week and Building Safety Conference of New Jersey](#) (see next story below for details), a major Code Council event that features education opportunities for code officials. The [conference schedule](#) runs from Monday, April 28, to Friday, May 1, with the Membership Council meetings set for Thursday, April 30, from 8 to 11:45 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. Interested attendees and industry professionals can [click here](#) to register.

## **Early-bird savings ends February 21 for 2020 Code Council Leadership Week April 28-May 1**

Registration is open for the 2020 Code Council Leadership Week and Building Safety Conference of New Jersey, April 28 to May 1, 2020, at the Bally’s Atlantic City Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, N.J. This year’s conference will offer three days of building safety training from leading experts in the industry,

expansive networking opportunities, educational sessions and much more. Interested attendees can [click here](#) to register. All are encouraged to register by Feb. 21, 2020, to take advantage of the conference's early-bird savings. Early-bird registrants will be entered into a drawing for a free registration and hotel stay. Registration officially closes April 15, 2020. This year's conference offers a variety of educational sessions led by industry experts and professionals. Seminars and training include:

- 2018 Mechanical Inspector M2 Certification Test Academy
- Fire/Life Safety Institute
- Permit Technician Academy
- 2018 IMC Design and Plan Review
- 2018 IRC Essentials
- 2018 IMC Combustion Air and Venting
- Residential Sprinklers: Homes to High Rise
- Common Fire Stop Issues

In order to register, attendees must print and fill out the full registration packet. Once complete, all packets should be sent to:

**Building Safety Conference**  
**c/o DCA Education Unit**  
**PO Box 802, Trenton, NJ 08625-0802**

For more information about the conference, visit [www.iccsafe.org/leadershipweek](http://www.iccsafe.org/leadershipweek). For registration questions, contact the DCA Education Unit at 609-984-7820.

**SAVE THE DATE! June 8-10 are the dates for the 2020 ICC Chapter Leadership Academy in Denver**

On June 8-10, 2020, the Code Council will host its fifth annual Chapter Leadership Academy at the [Crowne Plaza](#) in downtown Denver, Colo. This highly popular event for ICC Chapter activists focuses on management skills for ICC Chapters. Chapter leaders may use their annual Chapter benefit for either complimentary travel, hotel expenses and registration for the 2020 Chapter Leadership Academy in June **or** complimentary registration for the 2020 Annual Conference in October at St. Louis.

**EduCode 2020's 'early bird pricing' extended to February 10 to attend weeklong institute in Las Vegas**

The "early bird pricing" for this year's EduCode has been extended another 10 days to give attendees discounts on the annual event in Las Vegas. The institute will be held March 9-13 at the Orleans Hotel and Casino and is attended by anyone who needs building safety, fire, management and construction training. The event offers more than 90 training sessions (all ICC Preferred Provider approved), opportunities to sit for ICC Certification Exams (exam application), an opportunity to earn up to 4.0 CEUs, a trade show, ICC bookstore and loads of networking events. [Click for registration information](#).

**Code Council Joins 35 Organizations in Submitting Comments to HUD on Housing Affordability**

Last summer the President issued an Executive Order (EO) establishing a White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing. The EO puts the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the head of the White House Council, which is charged with making recommendations on what the federal government can do directly and indirectly (as an influencer of state/local governments) to make housing more affordable. The EO describes "cumbersome building and rehabilitation codes" and "excessive energy and water efficiency mandates" as regulatory barriers to affordable housing. HUD issued a request for information (RFI) on the EO. In response to the RFI, the Code Council submitted [joint comments](#) along with an additional 35 entities representing state/local, housing, emergency response, manufacturing, contractor, business, insurance, energy efficiency, engineering, design, and resilience interests. These comments discuss the important role modern building codes play in keeping housing affordable through reduced operations and maintenance expenses, utility bills, insurance rates, and disaster recovery costs. The comments outline how available studies show that building codes have no appreciable negative implications for affordable housing. The comments suggest that by promoting the adoption of current model building codes for modular and wood-frame homes, improved application of those codes, and more adoption of model zoning codes, HUD could improve affordability by reducing construction costs and operations and maintenance expenses while complementing existing Trump Administration efforts (at HUD, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy) to encourage current, well-enforced, codes.

Finally, the comments point to the benefits of proper code application and urge that efforts to streamline or expedite permitting be tied to resources for adequate staffing and training, as to do otherwise risks a regulatory regime that cannot adequately protect community safety and risks increasing insurance rates for the broader community and forgone energy cost savings.

### **Catch the latest on how the various Code Council standards are being revised or under development**

The International Code Council references almost 1,300 standards in its International Codes and has been re-accredited for its American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard development activities under the ICC Consensus Procedures. The Code Council also develops a number of codes and standards, including mechanical, plumbing, structural, resilience, accessibility and green standards, and is accredited by ANSI as a standards developer. [Read this from Building Safety Journal](#) to learn how the standards updating process is coming along.

### **Preferred Provider Program offers more than 550 scheduled courses and 18,000 courses in catalog**

The International Code Council's [Preferred Provider Program](#) (PPP) opens the door to extensive training opportunities by recognizing and promoting ICC-approved educational courses offered by a variety of education providers, focusing on the areas of construction codes, standards and guidelines, as well as building construction materials, products and methods. The Preferred Provider network currently offers more than 550 scheduled courses, and more than 18,000 approved courses in the main catalog. The participation by new providers is growing steadily and currently, more than 350 have joined the network. We are continually looking to improve and expand the program to better serve our customers. [Click here to see who renewed or signed up](#) for the PPP during December 2019.

### **New FEMA policies requiring public facilities be rebuilt to most current construction codes explained**

Gabe Maser, Vice President of Federal Relations for the Code Council's Government Relations office, provides insights on new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) policies that require that rebuilding using federal public assistance program disaster aid to adhere to new construction codes to make them more resilient to future calamity. "All of this rebuilding now is going to have to start to be rebuilt to these stronger standards," said Maser in a recent edition of E&E News. Numerous studies show that following up-to-date construction codes generates substantial savings over a building's lifetime by increasing its resilience. [Read the news article here.](#)

### **I-Codes requirements in FEMA policy aim to advance national resiliency and lower community risk**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently updated its Recovery Interim Policy FP-104-009-11, Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications and Standards for Public Assistance (PA), Version 2.1, [adding several I-Codes](#), developed by the International Code Council, to the list of required Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications and Standards for FEMA-funded post-disaster reconstruction. The I-Codes requirements aim to advance national resiliency and reduce community risk before and after a disaster. The PA Program is FEMA's largest grant program averaging \$4.7 billion in assistance each year to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations. Through the PA program, following a federal declaration, FEMA offers grants to eligible communities for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly-owned facilities and infrastructure to respond and recover from major disasters.

### **AWC and ICC jointly release "2015/2018 Structural Wood Design Examples" as a guide for designs**

The [American Wood Council](#) (AWC) and [International Code Council](#) have released a joint publication, [2015/2018 Structural Wood Design Examples](#), intended to aid in the structural design of wood buildings using both Allowable Stress Design (ASD) and Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD). The document contains over 20 design examples and complete solutions for wood member design, connections, and shear walls. Solutions have been developed based on both the 2015 and 2018 *National Design Specification® for Wood Construction*, as well as AWC's 2015 *Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic*, as appropriate. References are also made to AWC's 2015 and 2018 *Wood Frame Construction Manual for One- and Two- Family Dwellings*. [Read more here.](#)

### **Maryland Plumbing Board chooses the International Plumbing Code in recent adoption action**

The Maryland Plumbing Board recently adopted the 2018 International Plumbing Code (IPC) and the 2018 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC). The adoption of these model plumbing and fuel gas codes helps solidify consistency in codes and code usage throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Maryland joins Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania as regional jurisdictions that have adopted the 2018 IPC and IFGC. [Read more here](#). Also, for the study “The Economic Impact of the International Plumbing Code,” which provides a comparative analysis of model plumbing codes, [click here](#).

### **Code Council and ICC-ES build prominent presence at Design and Construction Week in Las Vegas**

ICC and the ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) joined more than 80,000 residential construction and design professionals from around the world at the 2020 National Association of Home Builders’ (NAHB) International Builders’ Show (IBS) and the National Kitchen & Bath Association’s Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) during the seventh annual Design and Construction Week in Las Vegas, Nev. The largest annual gathering of the residential construction and design industry, Design and Construction Week January 21-23 offered two shows with exhibits, education, networking and more during IBS, the largest annual light construction show in the world, and KBIS, North America’s largest trade show dedicated to all aspects of kitchen and bath design. [Read about ICC’s activities here](#).

### **Got Pulse? Emerging Leadership Membership Council leaders explain benefits to young professionals**

Chair Andre Jaen and Vice Chair Allison Cook of the ELMC Governing Committee cite the advantages that membership brings to young code professionals and those who would consider a career in building codes. They are interviewed by ICC Government Relations’ Richard Hauffe [on Pulse Podcast #24](#).

### **Upcoming from the [ICC Learning Center](#): Institutes, training, seminars, 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:

- **February 12** - [2019 CRC Essentials](#).
- **February 13** - [2019 CBC Essentials](#).
- **February 20** - [2015 IRC® Essentials](#).
- **February 24** - [Heights and Areas and Construction Fire Safety \(New Mass Timber\)](#).
- **March 5** - [Legal Aspects of Code Administration](#).
- **March 23** - [Fire Safety \(New Mass Timber\)](#).
- **April 8** - [Fire and Connection Design and Special Inspection \(New Mass Timber\)](#).
- **April 15** - [2018 IPC Essentials](#).
- **June 4** - [2018 IECC® Essentials](#).
- **August 13** - [Essential Skills for Rising Leaders](#).
- **August 18** – [Effective Communication](#).
- **September 10** - [Formulating an Effective Code Enforcement Program](#).
- **November 18** - [Essential Skills for Rising Leaders](#).

The following is the updated list of [ICC Institutes](#) and other training opportunities across the nation, many of which offer virtual options for those who cannot travel. Find course listings you’d like to attend in the [Learning Center](#) using the Search function:

- **February 3-7** at Chaska, Minn., [The Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute](#).
- **February 4** at Country Club Hills, Ill., [2018 IBC and IFC® Fire Protection Systems](#).
- **February 13** at Brea, Calif., [Essential Skills for Rising Leaders](#).
- **February 24-26** at Myrtle Beach, S.C., [Fire & Life Safety Institute](#).
- **February 27** at Brea, Calif., [2015 IBC Special Topics - Day 1](#).
- **February 28** at Brea, Calif., [2015 IBC Special Topics - Day 2](#).
- **March 5** at Brea, Calif., [2018 IWUIC® Overview](#).
- **March 9–13** at Las Vegas, [EduCode 2020](#).
- **March 18-19** at Atlanta, Ga., and Virtual, [Permit Tech Institute](#).

- **March 24** at Country Club Hills, Ill., [Additional Training on Mass Timber Construction includes the Mass Timber Building and the IBC® Seminar.](#)
- **March 30-April 3**, Austin, Texas, [2015 Residential Building Inspection Institute.](#)
- **June 3** at Country Club Hills, Ill., [Essential Skills for Rising Leaders.](#)
- **June 24** at Oakland, Calif., Virtual, [2019 CRC Essentials.](#)
- **June 25** at Oakland, Calif., Virtual [2019 CBC Essentials.](#)
- **August 13** at Brea, Calif., Virtual, [2019 CRC Essentials.](#)
- **August 14** at Brea, Calif., Virtual, [2019 CBC Essentials.](#)
- **August 19** at Oakland, Calif., [Complaint Management from Start to Finish.](#)
- Available daily online, [2015 Permit Technician 14 Study Guide.](#)
- Available daily online, [IRC® Online Study Guide for Residential Building Inspectors B1.](#)