

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

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Code Council extends deadline for 2021 and 2022 committee applications

Due to the current state of affairs surrounding COVID-19, the Code Council is extending the application process for its 2021/2022 code development cycle call for code, interpretation and code correlation committees. The new deadline for applications will now be **June 15, 2020**. "As we continue to navigate these unprecedented times and learn best practices for the 'new normal,' it will be important that the key learnings we are discovering now will be captured throughout the next code development process and present within the 2021 edition of the International Codes," said Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. "With experts predicting a second and potentially even third wave of COVID-19, gathering the expertise of all building professionals will be crucial in ensuring that modern building codes address not only new public health guidelines, but mitigate against future threats to society as well."

Code Council hosts virtual discussion on the effects of COVID-19 for Building Safety Month

During Building Safety Month, the Code Council conducted a virtual discussion on the effects of COVID-19 on the building safety industry, hosted by Government Relations Senior Vice President Sara Yerkes. Panelists included a code official, home builder, architect and an expert on laborers' health safety. To view the recorded webinar along with other free webinars to help you navigate the pandemic, visit ICC's Coronavirus Response Center page [here](#).

Sustainability Membership Council posts daily Building Safety Month videos

As part of its "Voices from Building Safety Month" series, the [ICC Sustainability Membership Council](#) unveiled daily videos on its [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) channels to examine the themes of Building Safety Month and how they intersect with safety, energy efficiency and sustainability, and training and education. These social media posts can be shared to serve as important reminders all year long. #BuildingSafety365

How much money will modern building codes save you?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that Florida and California's consistent adoption of the International Codes since 2000 will provide long-term average future savings of \$1 billion a year. By quantifying the avoided damage to buildings from flooding, hurricane winds and earthquakes the combined savings from these two states demonstrate the high value of adopting the International Codes for hazard mitigation as a return on investment. A part of the agency's "Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study of Loss Prevention" study, full results are expected later this year. [Read more here](#).

FEMA's Carlos J. Castillo, Acting Deputy Administrator of Resilience, posts blog: Why should strong building codes matter to you?

As we prepare for the upcoming hurricane season during the COVID-19 pandemic, Carlos J. Castillo, acting deputy administrator of resilience at FEMA, considers the importance of building codes and stresses that "one thing COVID-19 has reminded us is that home or essential office spaces are the places we may feel safest. It puts a finer point on why the structural safety of these places must be of the highest standard." [Read more](#) to find out how you can make a difference.

FEMA releases COVID-19 operational guidance for the hurricane season

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the nation is facing unprecedented challenges as it prepares for the 2020 hurricane season. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season to help federal, state, local, tribal and

territorial officials; emergency managers and public health officials respond to hurricane-related disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more here.](#)

Code Council Annual Conference Update

The Code Council's mission is all about safety and the continuing widespread threat of infection from the COVID-19 pandemic led the ICC Board of Directors to cancel this year's ICC Annual Conference. The conference and related events had been scheduled for October 10-14 in St. Louis, Mo. "For the past ten years, the Chief Executive Officer, staff and Board of Directors have worked hard to put the International Code Council in a strong position to withstand external factors that could impact the association. The association has built a resilient family of solutions for the building safety community," Wheeler said [in a media statement](#). "Given the health concerns for large gatherings, a possible resurgence of the virus in the fall, and declining budgets for many building safety departments, the Board felt this was the best decision for keeping our members and staff safe. We know that many of you rely on our conference for your annual training needs. We are exploring ways to expand our virtual educational offerings."

Supreme Court decision bolsters the Code Council's copyright case, rejects UpCodes' defense

The U.S. Supreme Court expressly rejected UpCodes' defense that the International Codes are not copyrightable because they are adopted by various governmental authorities and have the force of law. The Supreme Court case, Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org., considered whether Georgia could claim copyright in annotations to the Georgia code. While the author of a work owns the copyright upon creation, there is a narrow exception to this rule called the government edicts doctrine. The Supreme Court made clear that under the government edicts doctrine "copyright does not vest in works that are (1) created by judges and legislators (2) in the course of their judicial and legislative duties." The Supreme Court concluded that the annotations to the Georgia Code met the two-part government edicts test, and thus, were not copyrightable. The I-Codes do not meet either requirement of the government edicts doctrine – the codes were developed by the Code Council, a private, nonprofit organization that has no judicial or legislative function. The Supreme Court decision confirms that the I-Codes are entitled to copyright protection. [Read more here.](#)

NIBS' Whole Building Design Guide puts the spotlight on ICC's Coronavirus Resource Center webpage

The [Whole Building Design Guide](#), sponsored by the National Institute of Building Sciences, is now featuring [ICC's Coronavirus Resource Center page](#) on the homepage. WBDG is a widely accessed tool within the building industry, getting over 600,000 unique visitors a year. In addition to the feature on the homepage, WBDG also features many ICC resources in its COVID-19 Resource Center. The National Institute of Building Sciences developed the WBDG-Whole Building Design Guide to foster communication and knowledge-sharing among federal, industry and academic partners to advance high-performing facilities. You can keep up with the latest on ICC's Coronavirus Resource Center page by [clicking here](#).

Code Council offers an analysis as building officials consider the use of virtual and remote inspections

Code departments are adapting to ensure that they can continue to perform their public safety mission while protecting code officials, the construction workforce and the public at large from the spread of COVID-19. [Here are some important considerations](#) and a set of potential solutions for jurisdictions.

"Recommended Practices for Remote Virtual Inspections" (RVI) is a comprehensive resource developed to assist local jurisdictions and the building industry with implementing a remote inspection program. An alternative to on-site inspections, RVI can be combined seamlessly with online permitting and electronic plan review allowing jurisdictions to offer a complete program of services utilizing the latest technology. [Read more](#) or [download now](#)

ICC Government Relations' Steve Jones issues compelling essay on essential value of building codes

Sentiment is growing from Washington, D.C., to city halls and neighborhoods about the value of building codes as the foundation to a growing local economy and for public safety. Former ICC Board President and now Government Relations Senior Regional Manager Steve Jones states the case clearly. "From

superstorms to fires and floods, over 62 million people worldwide were impacted by extreme weather in 2018, according to a recent report by the United Nations. In the United States alone, this rise in extreme weather events is having a devastating effect. Researchers at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimate the cost of damage in the U.S. over the last five years has been approximately \$500 billion. Now more than ever, it is imperative that buildings and structures are designed and built using the most up-to-date building codes to allow for maximum safety, resilience and sustainability,” Jones writes in the Building Safety Journal. [Read and distribute this essay to your city and state leaders.](#)

Considerations for safely reopening the workplace following the COVID-19 pandemic first wave

After months of safe distancing, quarantines, layoffs, furloughs and work stoppages to protect the safety of the public and Americans at work, the process of reopening workplaces and America’s economy is getting started. The Code Council staff has some insights which should interest our members and employees in the built environment. [Read here.](#)

2020 edition of ICC-700 National Green Building Standard is now available for free download

The 2020 edition of the ICC-700 National Green Building Standard (NGBS) has been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and is available for public use. Having been developed over the past three years, this latest NGBS installment expands the scope of applicable building occupancies, keeps abreast of new technologies and advances the standard’s tradition as the industry benchmark for residential projects designed and built for high performance. [Read more here.](#)

2019 Group B Appeals

The Code Council's code development process stands as a shining example of codes and standards developed in the private sector and meets the fundamental principles of OMB Circular No. A-119 — Executive Order (Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities). A key principle of the circular is an appeals process. In accordance with Section 12.1 of CP 28 *Code Development*, the International Code Council has received six appeals on the 2019 Group B Final Action results which were posted on April 8, 2020. The appeal deadline was May 8 and based on the cross-over of many of the code changes cited in the appeals, the Code Council Board of Directors has granted a 45-day extension of the 30-day deadline enumerated in Sections 4.1 and 6.1 of CP 1 in order for staff to properly coordinate and correlate the processing of the appeals. A webpage is available to serve as the notification vehicle and repository for all documents related to the processing of the appeals in accordance with CP 1 Appeals. [Read more.](#)

Funding Available to Support Virtual Capabilities

Code departments across the country are working to develop the virtual capabilities necessary to continue their essential functions, support the construction activities we need to advance our economic recovery, and abide by public health requirements. With resource constraints a chief impediment to departments' efforts to going virtual, it's great to see leaders, like the [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development](#), providing resources to localities that need it to access now virtual education/certification requirements and electronic code books. CARES Act funding can supercharge these efforts (resources on that available here: <https://Inkd.in/esG2XBW>).

Deadline is extended until June 30 for the ICC Innovation in Code Administration Award

The International Code Council's **Innovation in Code Administration Award** recognizes fire and building departments for innovation in the delivery of code administration services to their communities. Sponsored by the [ICC Government Relations Department](#), the [International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire and Life Safety Section](#), and the [National Association of State Fire Marshals](#), the Innovation in Code Administration Award recognizes fire and building departments for new and innovative approaches to delivering code administration services as part of their overall approach to [Community Risk Reduction](#). The deadline to submit an application for the 2020 Innovation in Code Administration Award is **June 30, 2020**. Email completed applications to: InnovationAward@iccsafe.org. Click [here for an application](#).

Here’s how the International Plumbing Code addresses the disinfection of a building water system

Ensuring the safety of building water systems has always been a priority in the International Plumbing Code (IPC). At construction sites pipe and pipe fittings are exposed to a variety of pollutants and contaminants from manufacturing, to the handling and installation of the components that make up a water system. Taking a closer look at how the IPC addresses the disinfection of a building water system, Section 602.3.4 requires that after construction, the individual water supply system shall be purged of deleterious matter and disinfected in accordance with Section 610. Section 610 takes it a step further and mandates the purging and disinfection of the system. [Read more here.](#)

ICC's Wildland-Urban Interface Code gains traction in Texas and gets adopted by the City of Austin

The ICC code which focuses on regulating building codes to protect structures against wildfires will work in conjunction with the efforts of the Austin Fire Department to develop and implement fuel mitigation strategies. After years of planning and preparation, the Austin City Council recently unanimously adopted the Wildland-Urban Interface Code. [Read more here.](#)

Feedback from ICC members sought on residential solar energy system permit applications

To better understand how we can support our members, the Code Council is [seeking feedback](#) on the topic of residential solar energy system permit applications and the proposed SolarApp approach. Here's a [brief survey](#) to help ICC understand how widespread these permitting challenges have become, and your thoughts on whether something like the SolarApp portal can help to address it. We welcome the feedback of Governmental Members. [Read more here.](#)

Floods, fire and high winds call for the need for more volunteers to the Disaster Response Alliance

The [International Code Council](#) and the [National Council of Structural Engineers Associations \(NCSEA\)](#) are calling on members, stakeholders and communities that the [Disaster Response Alliance](#) maintains a national database of skilled, trained and certified building safety professionals who are standing by and ready to assist communities in need. Federal, state, local, tribal and territorial entities may [request assistance](#) online, and the Disaster Response Alliance has assembled a cadre of skilled code officials, engineers and others from across the country who are willing to assist with post-disaster safety assessments, building damage assessments, inspections, and provide surge support for other code-related functions. The Disaster Response Alliance is always [looking for volunteers](#). Architects, engineers, code officials and other building safety professionals willing to make a difference during times of disaster are encouraged to apply. The Disaster Response Alliance is also looking for individuals with specialized skills, knowledge or abilities such as plans examiners, permit technicians and building inspectors. Volunteers must have certification from the International Code Council's **When Disaster Strikes Institute**, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Safety Assessment Program, or training on the ATC-20 and ATC-45 standards from the Applied Technology Council.

Upcoming from the [ICC Learning Center](#): Institutes, virtual 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, and currently seminars offer a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection.

Check out the upcoming virtual learning and webinar offerings here:

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