

ICC [Government Relations](#) Chapter Monthly Update – September 2019

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Deadline to submit updated validated voters is September 23 for live and online voting in 2019

Voting Representatives must have their credentials validated by September 23 in order to fully participate in the 2019 Annual Business Meeting, Public Comment Hearings and Online Governmental Consensus Vote taking place at the Code Council's 2019 Annual Conference in Las Vegas. If your Governmental Member Voting Representative roster has changed since January 1, 2018, or it needs updating, your [Membership's Primary Contact](#) can go the Voter Validation site. If you have no updates at this time, no action is required.

Early registration benefits deadline is September 15 for 2019 ICC Annual Conference and hearings

A free t-shirt and cost savings are available to Code Council members who meet the September 15 deadline to register for the [2019 ICC Annual Conference](#) October 20-23 in Las Vegas. The Annual Conference plus the [Building Safety Design Expo](#) and the Public Comment Hearings for the Group B 2021 I-Codes will be at the Rio Hotel & Convention Center. The 2019 Annual Conference will be preceded by the [Fifth Annual Ron Burton Golf Outing](#) and the [15th Annual Bob Fowler Motorcycle Ride](#).

Deadline is September 20 to apply for committees that develop ICC National Certification exams

Those interested in having a say in the [development and maintenance](#) of the ICC National Certification exams, [now's the time to apply](#). But hurry – the closing date for receipt of applications is **September 20, 2019**. There are openings, beginning January 1, 2020, on the following [Exam Development Committees \[EDCs\]](#): Accessibility, Certified Building Official/Certified Fire Marshal (CBO/CFM), Commercial Building, Electrical, Fire Services, Mechanical, Permit Technician, Plumbing/Fuel Gas. Property Maintenance and Housing/Zoning, Reinforced/Prestressed Concrete Special Inspector, Residential Building, Soils Special Inspector, Structural Masonry Special Inspector, and Structural Steel Special Inspector. If you have additional questions about the duties and responsibilities of an EDC member, please feel free to contact us at 888-422-7233, ext. 5524 or at askac@iccsafe.org.

Deadline is September 6 to join an ICC Exam Development Committee on Green Construction

If you have experience with the IgCC and ASHRAE 189.1 and are passionate about commercial green construction, you now have the chance to shape the development of a new ICC National Certification exam. But hurry – the closing date for receipt of applications is **September 6, 2019**. There are immediate openings on an Exam Development Committee (EDC) that will develop an exam based on the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) that now includes content from ASHRAE 189.1. This soon-to-be-named exam will cover current construction practices for green building professionals, including designers, architects, contractors, and more. [Click here](#) for an EDC Member Snapshot, and [click here](#) to apply to be an EDC Member. If you have additional questions about the duties and responsibilities of an EDC member, please feel free to contact us at 888-422-7233, ext. 5524 or at askac@iccsafe.org.

Deadline is September 13 for submissions to the 2019 SES World Standards Day Paper Competition

In celebration of standards, and their growing impact on the global economy, SES and the ANSI U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day Planning Committee co-sponsor an annual paper competition for individuals in the U.S. standards community. Paper competition winners are selected by the SES Publications Committee and will be announced at the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day in November 2019. Submissions must be received with an official entry form by midnight on **September 13, 2019**. Click for an [official entry form](#), and [click here for more contest information](#).

Schedule for 2019 Public Comment Hearings in Las Vegas on October 23-30 has been announced

The schedule for the 2019 Public Comment Hearings to be held October 23–30 at the Rio Hotel and Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nev., is now posted. The Public Comment Hearing Agenda is scheduled to post on September 4. [Read more](#). The 2019 Group B Report of Committee Action from the meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., is available by [clicking here](#). Video from the Committee Action Hearings in Albuquerque, N.M., is available by [clicking here](#).

Government Relations Forum at ICC Annual Conference will focus on mitigation and resilience

The Government Relations Forum has been one of the best attended and most popular break-out sessions at each year's ICC Annual Conference. At the 2019 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, the GR Forum is bringing a prestigious group of speakers together to discuss the important role of codes and standards in resilience and hazard mitigation. It will provide members and participants with the latest information on how building codes and standards help communities achieve resilience goals and reduce the costs and impacts of disasters. The Forum is scheduled for 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Pacific on October 22, 2019. For more on the Forum and its speakers, [read this news story](#) written for the Building Safety Journal by Ryan Colker, Vice President of Innovation at ICC and Executive Director of the Alliance for National and Community Resilience.

FEMA calls for requiring up-to-date building codes in federal and state grants and programs

The Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG), chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), released the [National Mitigation Investment Strategy \(NMIS\)](#), a unified national strategy on mitigation investment that reduces risks posed by natural hazards and increases the nation's resilience to disasters. The MitFLG is composed of 14 federal agencies and departments as well as state, tribal and local officials and is charged with coordinating the strategy's implementation. The International Code Council provided comments on draft NMIS proposals and worked closely with FEMA to make sure it reflects the researched evidence that **up-to-date building codes and standard criteria should be required in federal and state mitigation grants and programs**. The NMIS devotes a section to encouraging communities to adopt and enforce up-to-date building codes. The strategy's focus on codes as a keystone mitigation investment strategy aligns with FEMA's [current strategic plan](#), and highlights that up-to-date building codes help communities survive, remain resilient, and continue to provide essential services after a disaster occurs. Recent research demonstrates that [current codes provide \\$11 in mitigation savings](#) for every dollar invested. [Click here to read more.](#)

FEMA announces funding opportunities through its Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs

FEMA recently announced funding opportunities for its [Hazard Mitigation Assistance \(HMA\)](#) competitive grant programs to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. For Fiscal Year 2019, \$410 million in funding is available through two HMA programs:

- [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#): the agency's funding priorities include flood mitigation planning and efforts for repetitive as well as severe repetitive loss properties. In this application cycle, \$160 million is available in FMA grant funds.
- [Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\)](#): The PDM program is designed to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program with the goal of reducing overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events. In this application cycle, FEMA \$250 million is available, with \$20 million set aside by FEMA for federally-recognized tribes.

The application period will open on Sept. 30. Eligible applicants must apply for funding through the [Mitigation eGrants system](#) on the [FEMA Grants Portal](#). All applications must be submitted no later than 3 p.m. ET on Jan. 31, 2020. FEMA is offering webinars for interested applicants. Each webinar provides overview of the grant programs and details about the agency's funding priorities and review process:

- Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 2 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. ET
- Thursday, Sept. 17 at 2 p.m. ET

Register on [FEMA Adobe Connect](#). FEMA Teleconference: 1-800-320-4330 Code: 338559#

For both grants, having well enforced, up-to-date codes makes applications more competitive.

Additionally, for the first time, and because of ICC's advocacy, the pre-disaster mitigation grants can now fund both code adoption and enforcement activities.

FEMA develops new assessment tool to determine if disaster estimates meet criteria for federal aid

A new assessment tool will make calculating easier for communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are required to determine if damages to structures located in a Special Flood Hazard Area meet the criteria before beginning reconstruction. In order to assist state and

local officials in estimating Substantial Damage for residential and non-residential structures, FEMA developed the [Substantial Damage Estimator tool](#). The tool can be used to assess flood, wind, wildfire, seismic, and other forms of damage. It helps communities provide timely Substantial Damage determinations so that reconstruction can begin quickly following a disaster.

Benefits of International Swimming Pool & Spa Code: Safety, energy conservation, I-Codes correlation

In the August 2019 issue of [Recreation Management](#), Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims shares the vital role that the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code plays in preventing tragedies and ensuring that families have a safe and enjoyable swimming experience. "An important element of pool safety is building codes," Sims wrote. "The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC), developed by the International Code Council, includes specific provisions to make pools and spas safer. Proper enforcement of the codes helps prevent tragedies and ensure that families have a safe and enjoyable swimming experience." Now in its third edition, the ISPSC meets or exceeds the federal requirement of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act. Here are significant advantages to enforcing the nationally promulgated ISPSC:

- Energy conservation. The ISPSC references the ANSI/APSP-14, Standard for Portable Electric Spa Energy Efficiency and the ANSI/APSP-15, Standard for Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency.
- Provisions that coordinate with other I-Codes.
- Certifications to the latest industry standards. The ISPSC requires portable spas are certified to the latest industry standards, eliminating the need to inspect inaccessible components.
- Provisions that avoid unnecessary increases to construction costs.
- Provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction.
- Provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types of classes of materials, products or methods of construction.
- Expedited and simplified construction of pools, spas, and aquatic facilities.
- Support from the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) and its member organizations.

Federal revolving loan fund act making its way through Congress to more communities more resilient

The Resilience Revolving Loan Fund Act of 2019 (H.R. 3779) — introduced before the August recess — establishes a \$100-million, low-interest, federal revolving loan fund that communities can draw from for projects that enhance resilience. Eligible fund uses include "establishing and carrying out the latest published editions of relevant building codes, specifications and standards for the purpose of protecting the health, safety and general welfare of the buildings users against disasters." Funding can also be used for "the development and improvement of zoning and land use codes that incentivize and encourage low-impact development, resilient wildland-urban interface land management and development." [Read more here.](#)

National Governors Association issues report calling for adoption, enforcement of most recent codes

As natural disasters increase in frequency and intensity, the National Governors Association (NGA) is recommending state policies and actions to improve the resilience of the nation's housing stock, including measures to build resilience into planning processes before a disaster strikes. A high priority in the report is updating and enforcing the most current building codes. NGA issued [a white paper](#) outlining state actions to enhance preparedness for disaster, informed by perspectives from a roundtable on enhancing housing resilience that NGA hosted in January 2019 in conjunction with the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS). [Read more here.](#)

\$6.9 billion of CDBG Mitigation Funding allocated by HUD to nine states includes code improvements

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) last week allocated \$6.9 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Funding (CDBG-MIT) to the states of California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia. A table of funds is [included in this linked notice](#). The notice makes clear that HUD supports prioritizing funds for code adoption and enforcement and will require grantees to revise code practices against mitigation needs in their grant applications. Grant applications must be submitted for public comment before submittal to HUD. The Code Council and its members should be active participants in the process, which is expected

to start in the next few months, to ensure that applicants needing code updates or improved enforcement can have their questions answered.

The 2018 Code Conforming Wood Design summarizes most important provisions of wood in 2018 IBC

The 2018 [Code Conforming Wood Design](#) (CCWD), a joint publication of the [American Wood Council](#) (AWC) and the [International Code Council](#), is now available as a free download. The publication concisely summarizes the most important provisions related to the use of wood and wood products as they appear in the 2018 *International Building Code* (IBC).

Among the 2018 IBC code changes mentioned in the 2018 CCWD are:

- Alternatives for protecting attics in buildings using an NFPA 13R automatic sprinkler system. This code change has specific application to construction designed in accordance with IBC Sections 510.2 and 510.4, based on the height of the roof above the lowest level of required fire department vehicle access.
- Provisions for a fire-watch during non-working hours when construction exceeds 40' in height above the lowest adjacent grade, if required by the fire code official. The *International Fire Code* contains additional fire watch provisions.
- Updated references to AWC's 2018 *National Design Specification® for Wood Construction* and 2018 *Wood Frame Construction Manual*.

A free eCourse (BCD430) providing an overview of the 2018 CCWD is available on the AWC website. AWC is an ICC Preferred Provider. The 2018 CCWD, along with 2015, 2012 and 2009 versions, can be downloaded for free here: <http://www.awc.org/codes-standards/buildingcodes/ccwd>.

First OG-400 solar pool and spa heating system certifications awarded to UMA Solar and Techno-Solis

UMA Solar and Techno-Solis were awarded the first OG-400 certifications for their solar swimming pool water heating systems from the Solar Rating & Certification Corporation (ICC-SRCC). They are the first manufacturers to complete the [new program](#). The certification proves compliance with the ICC 902/APSP 902/SRCC 400 Solar Pool and Spa Heating System Standard. Developed in conjunction with the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (formerly The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals), the ANSI-approved solar pool and spa heating system standard addresses minimum requirements for solar water heating systems designed for and installed in residential and commercial swimming pools and spas. Compliance with this standard will be required in the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. [Read more](#).

Dave Walls explains how California remains a national energy leader with cost-effective regulation

In a recent issue of [Green Home Builder](#), International Code Council Vice President of Business Support Initiatives David Walls examines the path to net-zero and the building codes that will take us there. The state set energy-use reduction goals targeting zero-net-energy use in all new homes by 2020 and commercial buildings by 2030. [Click here to read more](#).

Got Pulse? Episode 19 highlights the code development process under way in the City of Chicago

This month, Code Council Senior Vice President of Government Relations [Sara Yerkes](#) interviews Commissioner [Judith Frydland](#) and [Deputy Commissioner Grant Ullrich](#) of the Chicago Department of Buildings. The guests discuss the exciting recent code developments in the City of Chicago. [Click here to listen to this interview](#).

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:

- **September 4** – Permit Technician Webinar Series [Overview of Code Enforcement](#).
- **September 5** – 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pacific, [Designing to Minimize Restraint to Shortening Cracks in Post-Tensioned Structures](#).
- **September 10** – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific, [Detailing for Increased Breakout Capacity of Steel Anchor Rods in Concrete Podium Slabs](#).
- **September 10** - Leadership Webinar Series [Building Your Bench](#).

- **September 11** - Permit Technician Webinar Series [Simple Plan Review](#).
- **September 17** – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific, [Seismic Design of Wood Mid-Rise Light-Frame Residential Construction](#).
- **September 17** - Basic Code Enforcement Webinar Series [Self Defense Tactics - Situational Awareness & Verbal Judo](#).
- **September 18** - Permit Technician Webinar Series [Legal Principles](#).
- **September 19** – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific, [Design of Wood-Over-Concrete Podium Structures](#).
- **September 25** – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific, [Incorporation of Thunderstorms and Tornadoes into Wind Load Codes and Standards](#).
- **September 25** - Permit Technician Webinar Series [Reading Construction Documents](#).
- **October 1** - Basic Code Enforcement Webinar Series [Dealing with Hazmat and Hoarding Properties](#).
- **October 2** - Permit Technician Webinar Series [Building Department Processes](#).
- **October 9** - Permit Technician Webinar Series [Finding the Answers in the I-Codes®](#).
- **November 7** - Basic Code Enforcement Webinar Series [Joint Enforcement Safety](#).
- **October 16** - Leadership Webinar Series [Public Speaking](#).
- **November 19** - Leadership Webinar Series [Coaching for Success](#).
- **December 10** - Leadership Webinar Series [Public Speaking for the Code Official](#).

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:

- **September 5** at Overland Park, Kans., or Virtual, [2015 IBC Special Topics Day 1](#).
- **September 5** virtual, [2015 IBC® Special Topics Day 1](#)
- **September 9** at Edison, N.J., or Virtual, [2018 IPC® Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Requirements](#).
- **September 9-12** at Orlando, Fla., [Code Official Institute](#).
- **September 9**, virtual, [2018 IPC® Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Requirements](#).
- **September 12** at Overland Park, Kans., or Virtual, [2015 IBC Special Topics Day 2](#).
- **September 16-20** at Huntsville, Ala., [Residential Inspection Institute](#).
- **September 24-25** at Carolina Beach, N.C., [Permit Technician Institute](#).
- **September 24** at Brea, Calif., [Single Family Homes from Application to Occupancy](#).
- **September 26** at Brea, Calif., [Inspector Skills](#).
- **October 2** virtual, [2018 IRC® Essentials](#).
- **October 3** virtual, [Procedures for Officers and Inspectors](#).
- **October 4** virtual, [2018 IPC Nonpotable Water & Methods of Venting Plumbing Fixtures and Traps](#).
- **October 7** at Brea, Calif., [Code Enforcement 101](#).
- **October 7-11** at Sacramento, Calif., [Plan Review Institute](#).
- **October 8** virtual, [Advanced Legal Aspects of Code Administration for Bldg Officials and Inspectors](#).
- **October 8 and 15** virtual, [Basic Code Enforcement](#).
- **October 8 and 15** virtual, [Report Writing for Code Officials](#).
- **October 13** at Atlanta, Ga., or Virtual, [Procedures for Officers and Inspectors](#).
- **October 18-29** at Tampa, Fla., [When Disaster Strikes](#).
- **November 5** in Chicago, [Advanced Legal Aspects of Code Administration for Fire Inspectors](#).
- **November 6-8** in Portland, Ore., [Fire & Life Safety Institute](#).
- **November 18 and 25** in Atlanta, Ga., or Virtual [2018 IBC® and IFC® Fire Protection Systems](#).
- **November 18 and 25** in Atlanta, Ga., or Virtual [2018 IBC® Fire and Smoke Protection Features](#).
- **December 2-3**, in Orlando, Fla., [Permit Technician Institute](#).
- **December 13 & 20** at Miami, Fla., [2018 IPMC® Overview](#).

Certification Test Academies feature interactive and question-based review for the exam. Students will receive a voucher to take the exam at a later date. Upcoming opportunities:

- Available daily online, [2015 Permit Technician 14 Study Guide](#).
- Available daily online, [IRC® Online Study Guide for Residential Building Inspectors B1](#).
- **September 4-6** at Brea, Calif., [S1 - Structural Steel & Bolting Special Inspector](#).
- **September 16-18** at Brea, Calif., [47 - Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector](#).
- **December 9-12** at Las Vegas, Nev., [B2 - Commercial Building Inspector](#).