

International Code Council Government Relations Update – September 2017

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Stay on track with ICC Annual Conference events Sept. 10-13 by installing the 2017 app

It's new, improved and easier than ever to download. [This year's app is the definitive guide](#) for making the most of your time at the International Code Council's Annual Conference and Expo, Sept. 10–13 in Columbus, Ohio. Use the app to access complete schedules, exhibitor listings, maps, speaker bios, download conference education materials ahead of time and play the **CODEHUNTER** game for a chance to win terrific prizes. Packed with great features, the 2017 app will help you:

- Create your own schedule
- Stay up to date with event announcements
- Locate sessions and exhibitor booths with ease
- Learn about speakers and exhibitors
- Access speaker presentations and documents
- Learn about local hotels, dining, attractions and more

The App is accessible from all devices: Smartphones, tablets, laptops and desktops. It is available for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices. It's also available on the [web](#). *Find the App quickly in stores by searching for: ICC Conf.* And if you're among those who still haven't registered yet to attend this year's Annual Conference and Expo, [you can do so by clicking here](#).

We're 64,000 Members strong. Let's show Texas how ICC can make a difference when it counts.

It's going to be weeks before Hurricane Harvey flood water levels drop back to drop so that many thousands of Houston area residents can return to their damaged homes and start the long road to recovery. ICC is pledging up to [\\$64,000 to match contributions to the American Red Cross](#) from ICC Members, staff and stake holders in the next two weeks. So far:

- Fifty-three Texas counties have issued emergency declarations.
- Among the hardest hit was Houston, America's fourth-largest city with a metro region population of 5 million.
- There were an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 calls for help during the storm.
- The area receiving more than 10 inches of rain is about the size of the state of Kentucky. Hurricane Harvey dumped 52 inches of rain in parts of Texas with the coastal cities of Beaumont and Port Arthur receiving 26 inches in only 24 hours.

ICC is responding with more than money. ICC Members are expected to assist with the recovery as housing becomes available:

- ICC and the Building Officials Association of Texas are establishing the **Hurricane Harvey Code Heroes Housing Network**, which will connect volunteers with available rooms in the area. People with information on housing are asked to email housing@iccsafe.org and provide contact information and a description of space that is available.
- ICC staff are working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, code officials and members in Texas, and other experts to provide support and to begin the process of assessing damage in the search for lessons to make communities more resilient.
- Volunteers will be requested as recovery efforts develop. Volunteers wishing to help with damage assessment, building and plumbing/mechanical inspections and other code-related functions are asked to [register with the ICC's Disaster Response Network \(DRN\)](#).

Government Relations Forum at Annual Conference zeroes in on resiliency and sustainability

Frequently the best attended breakout session, the ICC Government Relations Forum at the 2017 Annual Conference will feature experts on energy code savings and community-based resiliency.

The GR Forum will start at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, in Room A220 at the convention center in Columbus, Ohio. Topics and speakers on the agenda include:

- **Stephen Cauffman**, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), “Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure Systems.”
- **Russell Riggs**, National Association of Realtors, “How Do Building and Energy Codes Impact Realtors and their Clients?”
- **Ryan Meres**, RESNET, “Update on the Energy Rating Index Modifications in the 2018 IECC and States Adopting the Energy Rating Index.”

Mike Pfeiffer, Senior Vice President of ICC Technical Services, will conduct a mock hearing and explain changes to Council Policy 28 and the code development process. ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, ICC Board President Dwayne Garriss and Senior Vice President of ICC Government Relations Sara Yerkes will also speak.

ICC’s Membership Councils to hold Governing Committee elections Sept. 10 at Columbus

If you’re attending the International Code Council Annual Conference, you may be interested in attending the ICC Membership Council meetings beginning at 10 am on Sunday, Sept.10 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. We have several items of interest on the [agenda](#) for the Joint Meeting, including elections for the Building Official, Fire Service, ICC Global, PMG Official and Sustainability Councils. Following the Joint Meeting, we’ll break out by Membership Council, including a session for the new Emerging Leaders Membership Council’s first Governing Committee.

ICC Residential Inspection Institute to be held in Denver on Oct. 16-20

Review the latest inspection tools and learn to complete residential building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical inspections step-by-step at ICC’s [Residential Inspection Institute](#). Based on the 2015 I-Codes, this event is an opportunity to earn 3.0 CEUs and receive practical information from those who know the codes best. Register today to get answers to your toughest code questions from highly respected code compliance experts.

Have you tried PRONTO? New cloud-based system provides convenience to taking ICC tests

The International Code Council [unveiled a new cloud-based testing system, Proctored Remote Online Testing Option](#) (PRONTO), which enables candidates to take ICC certification exams at their convenience on their home or office computer. The new system will help ICC provide better support to its members and the next generation of code officials. In the past, test takers had to travel to approved locations for certification exams. The new cloud-based system allows users to take proctored ICC certification exams on their own computer at home, in an office or at another secure location of their choice. This system will supplement the brick and mortar computer-based exam sites and paper-and-pencil testing that were the only options previously available. PRONTO also allows users to immediately see their exam results. ICC currently has 23 exams available online with plans for additional offerings in the future. [Click here](#) to learn more about PRONTO.

ICC Permit Technician Institutes to be held this fall in Seattle and San Francisco

The [ICC Permit Technician Institute](#) is designed to educate permit technicians with skills and abilities necessary to perform their jobs more effectively. It will be held Oct. 16-17 in Seattle, and then Nov. 13-14 and Nov. 16-17 in San Francisco. Topics covered include code administration, legal aspects, code language, code enforcement, reading construction documents, performing plan reviews and the permitting and inspection process. Participants will become familiar with the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) and sharpen their customer relations skills. Each participant will receive all necessary reference materials.

Five-day ICC Plan Review Institute will be held Oct. 2-6 in Chicago and Nov. 13-17 in Los Angeles
[Make your plans now for the Plan Review Institute](#), Oct. 2-6 in Chicago or the session set for Nov. 13-17 in Los Angeles. This five-day event is based on the 2015 International Codes and will include interactive exercises that detail best practices for performing residential, structural and nonstructural plan reviews.

Austin, Texas, to host “When Disaster Strikes” Institute Sept. 25-26

If your community is struck by a natural disaster, are you prepared to help? This two-day Institute provides hands-on instruction in assessing damage in the form of activities, case studies and interactive simulations. [Be prepared](#).

Two courses offered to building inspectors at the ICC Western Regional Office in Brea, Calif.

Building inspector courses will be offered later this month at the ICC Western Regional Office. They are:

- Sept. 20 – “[Inspector Skills](#),” on the necessary soft skills for success as an inspector, those non-technical traits and behaviors that enhance an inspector's ability to interact with others and to successfully carry out their job duties.
- Sept. 21 – “[Report Writing for Code Inspectors](#),” on effective writing for notices of violation, letters and reports are public documents that may be read by your supervisors, attorneys, judges, citizens, design professionals, contractors and reporters.

14th Annual Clean Air through Energy Efficiency Conference set for Nov. 13-15 in Plano, Texas

The 14th annual Clean Air through Energy Efficiency Conference will be held Nov. 13-15 in Plano, Texas. This conference will provide you the opportunity to engage with many state and local policy makers, community and business leaders, researchers, facility and energy managers, design and development professionals, utility and energy service experts, and other stakeholders in [a lively conversation about cleaner air, a better built environment and a new energy economy](#).

Energy department’s Energy Storage Systems Safety Roadmap focuses on codes and standards

The Department of Energy’s OE Energy Storage Systems Safety Roadmap is established to foster confidence in the safety and reliability of energy storage systems through three interrelated objectives: Research, codes and standards and communication/coordination. The objective focused on codes and standards is to apply research and development to support efforts that are focused on ensuring that codes and standards are available to enable the safe implementation of energy storage systems in a comprehensive, non-discriminatory and science-based manner. [Click here for more on this important safety project](#). You may also participate in a webinar on this program and its objectives [by clicking here to register](#), and entering the Webinar ID: 208-391-939. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Feel free to pass this e-mail along to colleagues and others you feel would be interested.

SKGA and ASCE develop training based on Significant Changes from ASCE 7-10 to ASCE 7-16

S.K. Ghosh Associates (SKGA), a part of the ICC Family of Companies, partnered with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to [develop training based on a new publication coauthored by S.K. Ghosh titled, Significant Changes from ASCE 7-10 to ASCE 7-16](#). This seminar series is being offered nationally in collaboration with ASCE to introduce engineers, designers, code officials and others to recent significant changes in ASCE 7, an integral standard referenced in the 2018 IBC.

American Wood Council offers complimentary registrations on webinars this fall

The American Wood Council, an ICC Preferred Education Provider, is offering the following three webinars that are suited as continuing education for code officials, architects, engineers and building designers. They are:

- Sept. 21 – “[Tall Wood Structures – Fire Resistance Design Primer for Mass Timber Construction \(DES602\)](#).” The course will be held 1:55 p.m. Eastern Standard Time to 3 p.m. Instructor is Jim Smith, American Wood Council. This presentation examines how fire resistance ratings in the 2015 International Building Code (IBC) apply to mass timber and heavy timber construction. Topics include how the IBC incorporates fire testing and calculation methods to quantify fire resistance as well as how various materials, including wood, behave when exposed to high temperatures in fires. One hour of education credits will be awarded.
- Oct. 19 – “[2015 NDS Connections Primer \(DES345\)](#).” The course will be held 1:55 p.m. Eastern Standard Time to 3:30 p.m. Instructor is Lori Koch, American Wood Council. With the variety of fasteners available for wood construction, this presentation will provide a basic understanding of connections that includes design examples based on the 2015 National Design Specification for Wood Construction. Solutions for nailed, screwed and bolted connections will be presented, along with specific information on calculating shear capacity as well as withdrawal capacity. One and a half hour of education credits will be awarded.
- Nov. 16 – “[Cornucopia of Classic Connection Conundrums \(DES340\)](#).” The course will be held 1:55 p.m. Eastern Standard Time to 3:30 p.m. Instructors are Michelle Kam-Biron and Lori Koch, American Wood Council. Based on numerous help desk questions and feedback from design professionals, AWC has identified some of the most commonly overlooked wood connection engineering requirements from the NDS and SDPWS. These requirements will be discussed as well as resources and examples to meet these requirements. One and a half hour of education credits will be awarded.

Dow’s Amy Schmidt joins national stake holders to improve community-based resiliency

Amy Schmidt, advocacy manager with Dow Building & Construction, has joined with the International Code Council, Target Corporation and other key stakeholders in an appointment to the Board of Directors of the [Alliance for National & Community Resilience \(ANCR\)](#). ANCR (pronounced “anchor”) is a coalition aimed at improving resiliency and implementing good community practices in towns and cities across the United States, helping cities prevent infrastructure failure caused by natural and other disasters, thereby avoiding negative social, economic and welfare repercussions caused by such damages. ANCR’s primary objective is the development of a system of community benchmarks – the first system of its kind in the United States – that will allow local leaders to easily assess and improve their resilience across all functions of a community. [For more on this important appointment, click here.](#) Contact [Bryan Soukup](#), ICC Director of Resiliency Initiatives, for information on ANCR.

Safer, Stronger, Smarter: New FEMA publication provides tool to schools to reduce disaster risks

The new FEMA publication, “[Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety, FEMA P-1000](#),” provides up-to-date, authoritative information and guidance that schools can use to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing natural hazards, including earthquake, tsunami, flood, hurricane, tornado, and high wind. It is intended to be used by administrators, facilities managers, emergency managers, emergency planning committees, and teachers and staff at K through 12 schools. It can also be valuable for state officials, district administrators, school boards, teacher union leaders, and others that play a role in providing safe and disaster-resistant schools for all. Parents, caregivers, and students can also use this Guide to learn about ways to advocate for safe schools in their communities. The Guide includes:

- Identifying natural hazards that could potentially impact a school.
- Making new and existing school buildings safer for children and staff, and more resistant to damage during natural disasters.
- Planning and preparing for effective and successful response during a natural disaster.

- Recovering after a natural disaster as quickly and robustly as possible, and being better prepared for future events; and engaging the whole community in the entire process in order to improve school and community disaster resilience.

Speakers and sessions highlight National Disaster Resilience Conference Oct. 25-27 in Atlanta

The [2017 National Disaster Resilience Conference](#) (NDRC) will be Oct. 25-27 in Atlanta, Ga., and will bring together the nation's foremost voices in the disaster resilience movement. Session topics will focus on the latest in science, policy, and practices to drive more resilient buildings and create disaster-resilient communities. Experts will share best practices, deliver research insights, and generate new collaborative opportunities. The agenda includes leaders from FLASH Legacy Partners BASF, DHS, FEMA, Simpson Strong-Tie, State Farm Insurance Companies, and USAA along with the American Institute of Architects, AIR Worldwide, DHS, Government Accountability Office, MIT, and *The Weather Channel*. Early registration rates are available until Sept. 8 by [clicking here](#). For more information, email info@flash.org.

RESNET and ICC working on a Water Rating Index to oversee RESNET's water rating standards

Water is the new frontier for RESNET and HERS Raters, which is why RESNET is partnering with the International Code Council to develop a national consensus standard for a Water Efficiency Rating Index (WER Index). In many states, water is an ever increasingly expensive commodity. There is clearly a need for a system to rate a home's efficiency in water use. This will allow homebuyers to know how efficiently water is being used in the homes they are considering to buy. It will also provide an opportunity for homebuilders to monetize the efficiency of their homes in the same fashion that the HERS Index plays for energy efficiency. The WER Index Advisory Council will oversee the development of the WER Index and will vet the drafts of subject matter experts before being submitted to the RESNET consensus public review and comment process. The membership of the advisory represents a wide diversity of interests and expertise in the fields of water efficiency and HERS ratings.

ICC-ES prepared to make sure ICC-ES Reports are code compliant to the new 2018 I-Codes

With the 2018 International Codes now available, ICC-ES is prepared to make sure ICC-ES reports are updated to the 2018 codes. The benefits of having an ICC-ES Report are:

- ICC-ES Reports save time and resources, and permit quick, economical access to all necessary data about a product to determine its code or standard compliance and installation requirements.
- ICC-ES Reports are most widely used and accepted, providing the most up-to-date and comprehensive information about codes and standards.
- ICC-ES is the only agency with the institutional knowledge to evaluate products to the requirements of its Acceptance Criteria.
- ICC-ES is Accredited by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and the Standard Council of Canada (SCC).

A Connect+ Customer Care representatives will help update your ICC-ES Report by calling 1-800-423-6587 ext. 1, or emailing es@icc-es.org.

Prestigious ICC Award research needs to start now for 2018 recipient

Fire and building departments across the country are developing new and innovative approaches to delivering code administration services as part of community risk reduction efforts. Is your organization one of them? If so, plan now to apply for the **ICC's Innovation in Code Administration Award for 2018**. To be eligible, the nominee must be a building or fire code organization that provides code administration services to one or more jurisdictions. This may include fire department, fire marshal's offices or building departments that are charged with code administration. The organization must have

implemented a unique practice that enhances building or fire code administration services in the community. An organization can nominate itself. Individuals are not eligible for this award. The practice should have resulted in a positive impact on public and firefighter safety, measurable reduction in deaths, injuries or property damage, and/or the quality, effectiveness or efficiency of code administration services. ICC awarded its [2017 ICC Innovation in Code Administration Award to the City of Saint Paul, Minn., Department of Safety and Inspections](#). The deadline to apply for the award is March 31, 2018. Applications can be sent to Karla Higgs at khiggs@iccsafe.org or Rob Neale at rneale@iccsafe.org

It's September, and it's still not too early to begin preparing for Building Safety Month

First observed in 1980 and celebrated every May since then, [Building Safety Month](#) raises public awareness about the importance of building safety and sustainability. Even though it's only September, ICC and ICC Chapters have already begun laying the groundwork for a successful 2018 campaign. With the support of our members, private companies, government agencies and nonprofits, we're planning to make next year's campaign the largest push yet to promote safe buildings, resilient communities and the crucial role of the code official. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.