

Who Needs Building Codes

All communities need building codes to protect their citizens from every day disasters like fires, weather-related events such as floods and structural collapse that follows deterioration over time of buildings of all kinds. Model building codes, adopted and enforced by well-trained professional code officials are society's best way of protecting homes, offices, schools, manufacturing facilities, stores and places of entertainment.

Building Safety Month is a month-long celebration of all aspects of building safety that helps families, employers and leaders understand and appreciate the best practices that keep the places where we live, work and play, safe.

VISIT
www.buildingsafetymonth.org
www.iccsafe.org



Support Building Safety

For more information about building safety codes and local requirements, contact the International Code Council or your local building department below:

*Resilient Communities
Start with Building Codes*

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH  MAY
INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

Presented by the
International Code Council



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International Code Council

www.buildingsafetymonth.org



Building Safety Month 2015

Building Safety Month is presented by the International Code Council (ICC), a member-focused association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe, sustainable and resilient construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process.

ICC's codes are used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes.

www.buildingsafetymonth.org

A Milestone Year

is highly anticipated for Building Safety Month 2015. The main theme "**Resilient Communities Start with Building Codes**" is supported by four core themes that will be highlighted throughout May of 2015, including,



Week One // May 4–10, 2015

Don't Get Burned—Build to Code

Protecting our homes and workplaces with essential safety precaution measures.



Week Two // May 11–17, 2015

Bounce Back Faster from Disaster—Build to Code

Raising awareness about how to prepare for a natural disaster and take action when one strikes.



Week Three // May 18–24, 2015

Water Safe, Water Smart—Build to Code

Helping to make smart decisions about water safety and conservation.



Week Four // May 25–31, 2015

Save Energy—Build to Code

Spotlighting the latest advancements in sustainability, energy efficiency and design.

About Building Safety Month

For the last 35 years the 50,000 members of the ICC have celebrated advances in building safety and widespread interest in the campaign has grown significantly. The support from the President, governors, city mayors, county executives and other officials demonstrated widespread interest and focus on the issue of building safety.

Why is Building Safety Month important today?

Building Safety Month provides education for the public about solutions that improve the safety, sustainability and resiliency of buildings, infrastructure and communities. Properly administered and up-to-date safety codes reduce loss of life and property damage. Contemporary planning, building materials, design and construction can make our communities more resilient to weatherization and natural disasters. Building Safety Month unites industries, associations, academia and government under a common goal to protect the public by creating a safe and resilient built environment.



10

IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for fire safety and awareness



1

Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Put a smoke alarm inside every bedroom.

2

Make sure your smoke alarms work. Test your smoke alarms. Push the test button. You will hear a loud noise. If you don't hear the noise, you need a new battery or a new alarm.

3

Make sure the smoke alarm always has a good battery. Put a new battery in the alarm every year.

4

Smoke alarms with long-life batteries will work for up to 10 years. You do not change the battery.

5

Smoke alarms do not last forever. Get new smoke alarms every 10 years.

6

Tell your family what to do if they hear the smoke alarm. Make an escape plan so everyone knows how to get out fast. Pick a meeting place outside the home where everyone will meet. Some children and older adults cannot hear the smoke alarm when they are sleeping. Make a plan for how to wake them up. Practice your escape plan with everyone in your family two times each year.

7

Install home fire sprinklers in your home. Home fire sprinklers and working smoke alarms greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase your property value and lower your insurance rates.

8

Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away.



If you live in an area where homes are located in or close to forests or vegetation areas, you should think about the following safety tips.

9

Install 1/8 inch or smaller mesh screening that cannot burn on attic/soffit vents and around wood decks to keep out embers. Install spark arrestors on fire place chimneys or wood stove vents.

10

Keep all items that can burn away from your home. Clean leaves from your gutters. Clear dead leaves and branches from shrubs and trees.

For more information on fire safety and prevention, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/fief
For more information about wildland fire safety, visit wildlandfirersg.org

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IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for backyard and pool safety



Pool & Deck Safety

- 1** Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching. Other gates should be padlocked.
- 2** Remove all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool isolation fence.
- 3** Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept on both sides of the pool. These items should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
- 4** All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007. Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair, and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings. The pool shall be closed immediately when broken, missing or noncompliant suction outlet drain covers are first noticed.
- 5** Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it is not a substitute for the barrier fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.
- 6** Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. The covers shall comply with ASTM F1345. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
- 7** Check for warning signs of an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.

Grill Safety

- 8** Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Do not use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can easily burn.
- 9** When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or several 4 gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
- 10** Keep children away from grills when in use. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.

Source: ICC www.iccsafe.org/safety/Pages/Backyard.aspx , ABC Pool Safety (www.abcpoolsafety.org/)

10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for disaster safety and mitigation



- 1 Develop a family action plan and share with everyone in your family, so you will know where to go if an evacuation is called. Review at least two exit routes from your home or neighborhood to a designated meeting place for your family. Plan ahead for your pets as many shelters will not accept them.
- 2 Create a disaster supply kit that will allow you to remain in your home after a disaster or for use after evacuating to a safer location. Be sure the necessities in your kit are fresh and restored as necessary.
- 3 Stay tuned to radio, TV and NOAA Weather Radio for official updates and critical life saving weather information. Remember, reception is usually best if placed near a window.
- 4 Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. Never drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off your feet and two feet of water to move an SUV-sized vehicle.
- 5 If you live in a high wind or hurricane prone area and do not have tested and code approved shutters for protection from windborne debris, consider temporarily protecting your doors and windows by mounting exterior grade, $\frac{7}{16}$ " minimum thickness plywood and fastening it into place. Visit www.flash.org for detailed instructions on how to use plywood for emergency board up.
- 6 Secure lawn furniture and any other loose outdoor items that can become windborne and can cause injury or damage during storms with high winds. Don't forget trash cans, grills, toys and potted plants.
- 7 Consider building or retrofitting to create a tornado safe room in your home. Follow ICC/NSSA 500 Standard for detailed construction information and to ensure you achieve the highest level of protection for your family.
- 8 Use Surge Protective Devices (SPD) in your home to protect electronic appliances from all but the most severe electrical surges or direct strikes. The devices should be installed to afford the highest level of protection.
- 9 In wildfire prone areas, remove fine (dead grass, leaves, etc.) and coarse fuels (dead twigs, branches, etc.) within 30 feet of a building to create a survivable space in case of wildfire. Be sure to remove dry leaf and pine litter from roofs, rain gutters, decks and walkways. Follow ICC's *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*® for detailed requirements.
- 10 Before winter sets in consider freeze-protection for water piping and exterior faucets.

Get free advice and learn more about disaster safety for your family and home by visiting the non-profit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc-Flash® at www.flash.org or www.iccsafe.org consumer safety pages

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IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for green and sustainable building



- 1 Heating and cooling uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system in the home. Approximately 43% of utility bills cover heating and cooling.
- 2 Close curtains and shades at night to keep warmth in and keep them open during the day.
- 3 Try new lighting control technologies like motion-sensitive or timed off switch lighting. Using these new options can reduce lighting use by 50% – 75% and save the lighting portion of energy bills that account for 11% of overall household energy consumption.
- 4 Replace ordinary light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs. If every household replaced just one light bulb with a CFL bulb, America could save enough energy to light nearly three million homes.
- 5 Install a programmable thermostat to keep your home comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.
- 6 Replacing windows can save between 7% and 24% of the household heating and air-conditioning costs.
- 7 Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips, and turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use as TVs and DVDs in standby mode still consume several watts of power.
- 8 Choosing energy-efficient products can save families approximately \$400 a year while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Choose ENERGY STAR® certified products when you buy or replace household appliances.
- 9 In the workplace, buy and use ENERGY STAR labeled office equipment, and other products. Be sure that the “stand-by mode” function is activated as this automatic “sleep mode” saves energy and money when the equipment is not in use.
- 10 Regularly change the filters in the heating and cooling system of your home or office as dirty filters can cost up to \$5 a month extra, overwork the equipment and result in dirtier indoor air. Consider purchasing “electrostatic” filters, which are washable, long lasting, and provide cleaner air. Clean or change filters more often if smokers or pollution sources are present.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy (www.eere.energy.gov/)

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH MAY



INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

Proclamation

Building Safety Month — May, 2015

Whereas, our (City's, Town's, County's, State's) continuing efforts to address the critical issues of safety, energy efficiency, water conservation, and resilience in the built environment that affect our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, give us confidence that our structures are safe and sound, and;

Whereas, our confidence is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, laborers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

Whereas, these guardians—dedicated members of the International Code Council—use a governmental consensus process that brings together local, state and federal officials with expertise in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect Americans in the buildings where we live, learn, work, worship, play, and;

Whereas, the International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety, energy and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties and states; these modern building codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquakes, and;

Whereas, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council, to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown guardians of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, efficient and livable buildings, and;

Whereas, "Resilient Communities Start with Building Codes" the theme for Building Safety Month 2015, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safe and resilient construction; fire prevention; disaster mitigation, water safety and conservation; energy efficiency and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2015 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure that the places where we live, learn, work, worship and play are safe and sustainable, and recognizes that countless lives have been saved due to the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies, and,

Whereas, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, (Mayor, Supervisor, Commissioner, Governor) of the (City, Town, County, State) of _____, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2015 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join with their communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

Signature