

## International Code Council Government Relations Update – November 2017

Follow [@ICC\\_GR on Twitter](#) for breaking GR news & announcements throughout the month!

### Check out PRONTO: ICC Certification & Testing is all-new and renamed the ICC Assessment Center

The ICC Assessment Center marks a significant step forward for building code certification. Now, all current and future Certification needs and resources can be found in one location. In addition to being more closely aligned with ICC's array of online and in-person training options, features include:

- **One account number with ICC**—the same number for your ICC Membership, Certifications and testing. This is the number on your ICC wallet card.
- **Single sign-on** for both **online** and **computer-based testing**. If you have previously tested with Pearson VUE, your Pearson ID has automatically been changed to this identification number.
- The option to purchase exams **directly from the ICC Store**.
- Various **exam catalog updates** at your fingertips.
- New services available now, including [ICC PRONTO™](#). More to come!

ICC is continually evolving exam offerings, testing options, and technology to ensure that all building and code officials have access to tools and resources needed to advance in today's world. [Proctored Remote Online Testing Option \(PRONTO\)](#) allows individuals to take an ICC certification exam in the privacy of their home, office or other secured location. [Click here to read more.](#)

### November 10 is deadline to submit application for ICC Codes & Standards Council positions

Interested International Code Council Members have until [Nov. 10 to submit their application](#) to fill one of five expired terms/vacancies on the Codes & Standards Council. The CSC is a single, multi-discipline council that was established to advise the ICC board regarding applications for codes- and standards-related committees and to review and provide oversight of codes- and standards-related procedures — Council Policy 28 and Council Policy 12, respectively. Click here for Council Policy 9, which regulates the ICC councils. [Click here for an application.](#)

### Webinar compares the effectiveness of building codes after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Building code adoption and enforcement are significant components of a community's resilience against natural and man-made disasters. Using information from ISO's **Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)**, a recent webinar compared the current state of code adoption and enforcement found in the states of Texas and Florida, titled "**Building Codes in Light of Harvey and Irma: A Tale of Two States.**" You can watch the seminar by [clicking here and registering in the sign-up column.](#)

### Talking points, a PowerPoint, a flyer and a video are tools you can use to promote code officials

A "do it yourself" set of resources is [now available on the International Code Council's website](#) to give ICC Members the tools needed to make public presentations on the value of code officials to their communities. The talking points go with the PowerPoint presentation, both of which can be edited for presentation lengths and the kind of audience being addressed. The resources are intended to build public awareness of what code officials do and their impact on communities. Please feel free to use all these resources to communicate the value of the code official to your local community. If you have questions, or need additional assistance, please contact Madi Dominescy at [mdominescy@iccsafe.org](mailto:mdominescy@iccsafe.org).

### First quarterly ICC Chapter Leader Virtual Roundtable yields questions and advice for Chapters

The first ICC Chapter Leader Virtual Roundtable was held Thursday, Nov. 2, to allow ICC Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents the opportunity to share information. Topics included the newly named ICC Assessment Center, the [Proctored Remote Online Testing Option \(PRONTO\)](#), resources found on the new [Value of a Code Official page](#) on the ICC website, strategies to recruit people to become code officials, the Military Families Program, chapter benefits, ICC annual award programs, the Chapter

Leadership Academy and the Code of Honor Scholarships program. The entire meeting, which included two questions from Chapter Presidents, lasted only 30 minutes. The date and time for the winter Chapter Leader Virtual Roundtable, led by Ron Piester, Vice President, ICC Membership & Certification, will be announced later.

**Building, Fire and Sustainability Code Action Committees will meet Dec. 5-6 near Chicago O'Hare**  
Schiller Park, Ill., is where members of the Building Code Action Committee (BCAC), Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) and Sustainability, Energy & High Performance Building Code Action Committee (SEHPCAC) have scheduled a joint meeting Dec. 5-6 to discuss the code development process for the 2021 I-Codes. All meetings are open to the public. [View the meeting notice](#). The meetings will be at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel near Chicago O'Hare Airport. Agendas, meeting minutes, meeting materials and all other documents can be [found on the CAC website](#).

**ANCR holds its first Technical Development Advisory Workshop at Target Corporation HQ**  
The [Alliance for National & Community Resilience \(ANCR\)](#) held its first Technical Development Advisory Workshop at the Target Corporation Headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Oct. 25. The objective was to engage community resilience experts and stakeholders to get feedback on ANCR's Community Resilience Benchmark proposed development and adoption process. ANCR Executive Director Bryan Soukup was pleased with the outcome: "After nine hours, the mission and vision of ANCR were embraced by many of the best minds in resilience in the United States. The Board and ANCR participants will be working tirelessly over the next months to operationalize what was discussed in Minneapolis and, hopefully, deliver this much-needed system to American communities in part or in total as soon as possible." The priority of ANCR is to develop a benchmarking system that supports governments, businesses and citizens with comprehending and addressing areas of vulnerability and how to prepare for environmental change and natural disasters. The workshop was an opportunity for ANCR to continue to build partnerships and seek financial, foundation, private sector, and government support to complete the development of its community resilience benchmarking system.

**ICC and ANCR partner with FEMA's Resilient Nation Partnership Network**  
The Resilient Nation Partnership Network (RNPN), developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), consists of more than 100 organizations committed to build resilient communities by collaborating on best practices to endure natural disasters. The International Code Council (ICC) and its resilience subsidiary, the Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR), recently joined Resilient Nation Partnership Network (RNPN). The RNPN also includes the American Red Cross, National Fire Protection Association, Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, National Electrical Manufacturers Association and National Institute of Building Sciences. One outcome was the use of the [ICC Disaster Response Network](#) (DRN) in response to Hurricane Harvey. Click [here if you wish to register](#) as a volunteer for the ICC Disaster Response Network.

**360-degree cameras provide new useful tool to understanding fire code issues**  
Poudre Fire Authority (PFA) and the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery teamed up to produce a virtual reality tour of an off-campus house fire at Fort Collins, Colo. [Using the links to this story](#), the technology places the viewer in the middle of a fire scene while listening to the conversation with Education Specialist Michael Durkin from the [Poudre Fire Authority](#) and Digital Dome Manager Ben Gondrez from the [Fort Collins Museum of Discovery](#). You can read [more details about the fire at the PFA website](#). According to Rob Neale, Vice President, ICC National Fire Service Activities: "This new and exciting technology brings to life the real impacts of fire: Heat-blistered paint, blackened surfaces and the overall consequences of fire. It also provides a great reminder of the importance of maintaining smoke alarms

and sleeping with the bedroom door closed. Finally, it's a great reminder for assuring that recreational fires are out before retiring for the night."

### **SAVE THE DATE: 2018 Chapter Leadership Academy will be June 4-6 in Denver**

The 2018 Chapter Leadership Academy will be held from June 4-6 in Denver, Colo., to help ICC Chapter officers learn best practices and share ideas on building successful state and regional chapters. Previous Chapter Leadership Academies, held in Oklahoma City in 2016 and Atlanta last summer, focused on several topics. Additional details and registration information for the Denver event, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center, will be announced in early 2018. Chapter Presidents can use their annual Chapter benefit for one of the following:

1. Complimentary travel, hotel expenses and registration for the 2018 Chapter Leadership Academy, or
2. Complimentary registration for the 2018 Annual Conference

A "Save the Date" flyer can be accessed [here](#).

### **ICC and NFPA workshop focused on the community economic impact of codes and standards**

The International Code Council (ICC) and the National Fire Protection Association hosted a workshop on needs and resources, focusing on the economic impact of codes and standards. Presenters were from a wide range of stake holders, including government agencies and nonprofits such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Government Accounting Office, the Department of Energy, the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the National Association of Homebuilders, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and many more. Presentation topics included "Lifecycle Cost Effectiveness Methodology," "Economic Perspective from an Authority Having Jurisdiction" and "Economic Impact of Mitigation." Attendees participated in Q&A sessions with the presenters to gain further insights. Sara Yerkes, ICC Senior Vice President of Government Relations, facilitated a discussion on how economic decision tools can be used to evaluate the impact of codes and standards for one of four breakout sessions. Participants collaborated on next steps for forming economic impact studies related to codes and standards.

### **Raj Nathan promoted to head International Accreditation Service, Inc., replacing Chuck Ramani**

ICC and the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS) Board last week announced the selection of Raj Nathan as IAS President. Nathan is replacing C.P. "Chuck" Ramani, who is retiring after a 44-year career in global conformity assessment and construction code enforcement. Nathan has over 30 years of experience and has been with IAS since 2002. [Read more by clicking here](#).

### **ICC fire service officials publish article to promote involvement in ICC's Membership Councils**

You don't have to be a fire official to be interested in what Rob Neale and Scott Adams had to say about why all six Membership Councils add value to ICC memberships. The article was published in the fall edition of Utah Fire & Rescue Academy's Straight Tip Magazine. To read the article, [turn to page 22](#) on the Straight Tip website. Adams, retired assistant fire chief, is chair of the ICC Fire Service Membership Council and Neale is Vice President of ICC National Fire Service Activities. There is no fee to join any of the Membership Councils. [Click here to learn more or to join any of the Membership Councils](#).

### **RESNET reaches milestone of more than two million HERS-rated homes across the USA**

The Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET), an important ICC partner, announced that over 2 million homes have now been rated with a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) index score, which establishes a uniform estimate of a home's energy consumption and provides buyers and owners with a reference point for how energy efficient it is as compared to other homes. [To read more, click here](#).

**New webinar outlines solar updates and additions to NEC on large-scale photovoltaic supply stations**

There are more than 1.3 million photovoltaic systems installed nationwide that are increasingly guided by robust codes and standards. In a new webinar, national expert Jim Rogers discusses new solar updates and the National Electrical Code including large-scale photovoltaic electric supply stations, energy storage systems, rapid shutdown and photovoltaic systems grounding. [For more, click here.](#)

**American Wood Council offers free registrations on November and December webinars**

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

- 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. 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. One and a half hour of education credits will be awarded.
- Dec. 14 – “[2018 NDS Changes \(STD120\)](#).” The course will be held 1:55 p.m. Eastern Standard Time to 3 p.m. Instructor is Buddy Showalter, PE. One hour of education credits will be awarded.

**ICC Institutes are scheduled for November and December in Los Angeles, New York and Phoenix**

- **ICC Plan Review Institute, Los Angeles Nov. 13-17:** [Make your plans now for the Plan Review Institute](#). This five-day course is based on the 2015 International Codes and will include interactive exercises that detail best practices for various plan reviews.
- **ICC Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector Certification Test Academy, New York City Nov. 13-15:** Taught by an expert ICC instructor, the [Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector Certification Test Academy](#) provides instruction, individual/ group interactive review exercises, evening assignments and opportunity to practice test taking. Topics that will be covered include general requirements; concrete quality; reinforcement; formwork, joints and embeds and concrete placement, protection and curing of the special inspection certification exam.
- **ICC Code Officials Institute, Phoenix Dec. 4-7:** Designed for current managers or code professionals on track for a leadership position, this [four-day, in-depth event](#) is an opportunity to learn everything from processing electronic plan reviews to how to hire the right people.

**Training for becoming Building Department Lead Assessors to be offered Nov. 29-30 in D.C. area**

A [two-day training program](#) for individuals interested in becoming Building Department Lead Assessors is coming to Arlington, Va., Nov. 29-30, sponsored by the International Accreditation Service (IAS). The course is intended for individuals with advanced experience in the operation of building departments along with good working knowledge on the enforcement of construction codes. Sound knowledge of plan review and inspection methodologies, and excellent written and verbal communication skills are essential for success as lead evaluators. This course is also suitable for individuals looking to better understand building department accreditation requirements.

**Registration open for 2015 IBC Special Topics seminar Nov. 29-30 at ICC Brea, Calif., office**

Registration is open for the [2015 IBC Special Topics seminar](#), Nov. 29–30 at the ICC Western Regional Office in Brea, Calif. The training addresses four critical topics from the 2015 International Building Code® (IBC®). During this two-day training event, participants will have the opportunity to learn from code experts with decades of experience and get answers to the toughest code questions. Earn CEUs and gain insights on focused code topics that can immediately be put to use in the workplace. Doug Thornburg, AIA, is the instructor. Thornburg is Vice President and Technical Director of Products and Services for the International Code Council. [Click here for more information.](#)

**IAS offers training course Dec. 11-12 at Brea, Calif., on operating management systems**

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) offers important training course that will provide an introduction and refresher to the ISO/IEC 17020 standard, Management System requirements, IAS assessment process, and auditing techniques. Subjects include inspection equipment management, managing inspection personnel and procedures, inspecting sample management, internal audits and management review and contract management. [Registration](#) is limited to 20 people.

**Valuable seminar on ASCE 7-10 to ASCE 7-16 offered in eight cities between November and March**

ICC announced in June the addition of S.K. Ghosh Associates (SKGA) to its family of companies, which further strengthens ICC with respect to the structural provisions of our codes and reference standards. SKGA has 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**. For [more information on this timely seminar, click here](#).

**Former ICC CEO James Lee Witt appointed to lead recovery efforts in California's wine country**

James Lee Witt was appointed executive director of Rebuild North Bay, a nonprofit launched to coordinate wildfire recovery efforts in Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Lake and Solano counties in California. Witt, a former Chief Executive Officer of the International Code Council (ICC), was the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). [According to the San Francisco Chronicle](#), Witt said his focus as head of Rebuild North Bay will be to "build back better and safer, and build back with more resiliency than ever before." Used in all 50 U.S. states and many other countries, the International Codes, including the International Wildland Urban Interface Code, are an important part of rebuilding efforts to ensure safe structures and resilient communities.

**Have you seen the latest edition of ICC's Building Safety Journal?** [Click here](#) for the October 2017 Building Safety Journal Online. Cover page headline is **"Disaster Mitigation: Codes Perform in the Midst of Calamity."**