

International Code Council Government Relations Update – February 2017

Follow @ICC_GR on Twitter for breaking GR news throughout the month!

[Check out the last item – [WHAT'S YOUR PLAN FOR 2017 BUILDING SAFETY MONTH?](#)]

2017 Building Safety Month in May puts the spotlight on the role of code officials

Code Officials: Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth is the theme selected for the 2017 [Building Safety Month](#), organized by the International Code Council Family of Companies. During May, ICC's 60,000-plus Members, along with other professionals in the construction and design community, will conduct events including school assemblies, hosting information booths at builder supply stores, and implementing proclamation signing ceremonies to increase awareness about the importance of building and remodeling to modern codes and standards.

Weekly themes that spotlight specific areas of the roles of code officials in building safety and fire prevention are:

- Week One, May 1-7, 2017, **Mentoring the Next Generation of Building Professionals**
- Week Two, May 8-14, 2017, **Building Design Solutions for All Ages**
- Week Three, May 15-21, 2017, **Manage the Damage—Preparing for Natural Disasters**
- Week Four, May 22-28, 2017, **Investing in Technology for Safety, Energy & Water Efficiency**

ICC will provide several resources to assist communities in promoting Building Safety Month, including strategies on how to set up an event, a fill-in news release, a sample proclamation, kids' activity pages, and much more. Many resources will be available for free download and others may be purchased from the [ICC Store](#) in the near future.

Building Safety Month also offers corporate sponsorship opportunities. For sponsorship information, please contact Sara Yerkes at SYerkes@IccSafe.org or your ICC Government Relations Regional Manager.

Electronic Voter Validation System will reopen in Spring – new and improved!

Governmental Voters have found the ICC's Electronic Voter Validation site is an easy-to-use, online portal to check and update your 2017 Governmental Member Voting Representative (GMVR) information. The site is temporarily shut down to allow staff to improve your experience with this service. Your ICC Member status and 2017 GMVR information must be up-to-date in order to participate and vote at the [Annual Business Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in September](#). The site will reopen this Spring, allowing plenty of time to update your GMVR information and designate voters. If you would like to provide feedback regarding these improvements, email memfeedback@iccsafe.org.

2016 Group B Final Action OGCV process verified and vote tallies are available

In accordance with Section 10.0 of CP28 Code Development, the ICC Board of Directors has verified a valid 2016 Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV) process as certified by the Validation Committee. The Final Action on all 2016 Group B code change proposals, including the vote tallies from the OGCV, [are available by clicking here](#). All totaled, there were [577 code change proposals](#) considered during the OGCV.

Your feedback on the ICC code development process is encouraged by Feb. 15

As previously posted, the ICC Board has directed staff to engage the stakeholders by [announcing a "Call for Feedback" on any and all aspects of the ICC code development process](#). The next step in the process is the deadline for feedback, which is Feb. 15. Feedback received will be posted for comment. The final report will be considered by the ICC Board at its May board meeting.

ICC Members encouraged to participate in person or phone conference at ANCR's Feb. 16 workshop

A seven-hour workshop Feb. 16 in Washington, D.C., will update a wide variety of stake holders on the mission and progress of International Code Council's newest subsidiary, the Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR) (<http://resilientalliance.org/>).

ICC members (and members' jurisdictional colleagues) can participate in-person or by phone conference. Interested people should contact ICC's Director of Resilience Initiatives, Bryan Soukup (bsoukup@iccsafe.org), for details. Also, ANCR is now on Twitter. Follow ANCR at @ANCRresilience.

ICC announces the new ICC Innovation in Code Administration Award

The International Code Council Family of Companies (ICC) has created a new honor to acknowledge public safety creativity in the built environment: the [ICC Innovation in Code Administration Award](#). In announcing the award, ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO, said it recognizes building and fire departments for innovation in the delivery of code administration services in their communities.

The award program is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs-Fire and Life Safety Section, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the Code Council. Organizations eligible for the award must be a building or fire code organization that provides code administration services to one or more jurisdictions. This may include fire departments, fire marshal's offices or building departments charged with code administration.

The deadline to submit applications for the annual award is March 3. Applications must be submitted to the **International Code Council, 900 Montclair Road, Birmingham, AL 35213** or by fax to 205-591-0775. Recipients of the annual award will be honored in May during the ICC-sponsored Building Safety Month and at the annual Building Safety Month Reception in Washington, D.C. Questions about the award criteria or application process should be submitted to Karla Higgs at 1-888-422-7233, ext. 5268, or by email to khiggs@iccsafe.org.

Nominees sought for Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award

The [Congressional Fire Services Institute](#) (CFSI) and the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) (NFFF) are accepting applications for the Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award. The Sarbanes Award recognizes organizations for outstanding leadership in advancing firefighter health and safety. The award presentation will take place at the [29th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner](#) on April 6, 2017 in Washington, DC. Over 2,000 state and national fire service leaders are expected to attend the program hosted by CFSI. The program will feature remarks from national political leaders and award presentations recognizing both individuals and organizations for leadership at the national level.

ICC Permit Technician Institute Feb. 27-28 focuses on the IBC and IRC

The International Building Code® (IBC) and the International Residential Code® (IRC) will be the focus at the Permit Technician Institute Feb. 27-28 at the Wyndham Atlanta Galleria in Atlanta. Instructor John M. Gibson Jr., MCP, CBO, CPCA, CFM, will review code language, code enforcement, construction document review, legal aspects, permitting and inspection processes. [Click here to register](#). Those attending will be better able to:

- Describe an overview of building code enforcement
- Employ legal principles in the building department
- Explain the fundamental plan review process
- Read basic construction documents

- Use I-Codes to find the answers to frequently asked questions
- Use strategies and techniques to effectively interact with customers

EPA program provides low-cost, long-term loans to water quality projects

Approximately \$1 billion in credit assistance for water infrastructure projects under the new Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [EPA's WIFIA program](#) will provide long-term, low-cost credit assistance in the form of direct loans and loan guarantees to creditworthy water projects. Some of the projects that WIFIA enables EPA to provide assistance for include:

- Drinking water treatment and distribution projects
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects
- Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities
- Desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects
- Drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects

EPA estimates that the U.S. needs about \$660 billion in investments for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure over the next 20 years. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/wifia

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN FOR 2017 BSM? Permit Techs Chapter promotes BSM to classrooms

Here is a [Building Safety Month](#) public event aimed at elementary school students, featuring Amy Barenklau of the Kansas City Metropolitan Association of Permit Technicians:

Amy Barenklau believes it's important that young children learn about the role of code officials. That's why she developed a presentation for kindergarten, first and second grade students in nearby schools in the southwest Kansas City suburbs.

"We divide them into groups of three. One student plays the role of a building inspector and wears a white hat. The other two wearing yellow hats and playing the role of building contractors," she said. "We try to show how the inspector and the contractors really work together to provide safe buildings and homes."

The students would select different materials for foundations, walls and rooves, Barenklau said. She also brings along copies of the IBC and the IRC, zoning ordinances and samples of building materials as well as the blueprints of the school for the students to figure out where their classroom is located as well as the gym and the lunchroom. The half-hour presentation includes photos of good building practices and some disasters. The children take home materials to let their parents know what they learn.

"Once in a while I'll run into a teenager who'll say 'hey, I remember you. You're Mrs. Barenklau. You came to our school and talked to us about building safety!' That's when you know you've made some progress!"

NOTE: If you'd like to share what your Chapter or city is planning for 2017 Building Safety Month, please **contact your ICC Government Relations Liaison** today.