

IN THE NEWS

FEMA announces initiative to advance building codes based on International Codes

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the National Initiative to Advance Building Codes, a governmentwide effort aimed at boosting national resiliency and reducing energy costs. Under the initiative, federal departments and agencies will review federal funding and financing of building construction to ensure that projects follow updated model codes and provide incentives and support for communities to adopt modern building codes.

Members of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) will review the infrastructure grantmaking processes to ensure that they align with and support the adoption and use of current editions of the *International Residential Code* (IRC) and *International Building Code* (IBC). FEMA chairs the MitFLG, which consists of another 13 federal

agencies, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The announcement was made at the Florida International University Wall of Wind in Miami, Fla., at the start of Atlantic hurricane season. In the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, which struck southern Florida nearly 30 years ago and resulted in 65 deaths and more than \$26 billion in damages, Florida significantly strengthened its building codes and enforcement practices. As a result, FEMA's November 2020 report *Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study: Losses Avoided as a Result of Adopting Hazard-Resistant Building Codes* says that Florida's codes, which are based on International Code Council codes, have prevented more than \$1 billion in annual losses since 2000.

Requiring the adoption of the current IBC and IRC prevents roughly \$14,000 in losses per building in jurisdictions where codes have not been updated in the past two decades. The FEMA report says that in recent years, 30% of new construction has taken place in these areas.

—Source: International Code Council

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Event details are subject to change.

fib and RILEM Bond in Concrete 2022 5th International Conference Stuttgart, Germany	July 25-27, 2022
PTI 2022 Committee Days Cancun, Mexico	October 4-7, 2022
ACI Concrete Convention Hyatt Regency Dallas, Dallas, Tex.	October 23-27, 2022
Greenbuild Moscone Center, San Francisco, Calif.	November 1-3, 2022
2022 International Accelerated Bridge Construction Conference Miami, Fla.	December 7-9, 2022
ACI Concrete Convention Hilton San Francisco Union Square, San Francisco, Calif.	April 2-6, 2023
PTI Convention Hyatt Regency Miami, Miami, Fla.	April 28-May 4, 2023
BEI-2023 "Sustainability in Bridge Engineering" Roma Eventi-Fontana di Fontana Trevi, Rome, Italy	July 17-20, 2023
PTI 2023 Committee Days Cancun, Mexico	October 3-6, 2023

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org)