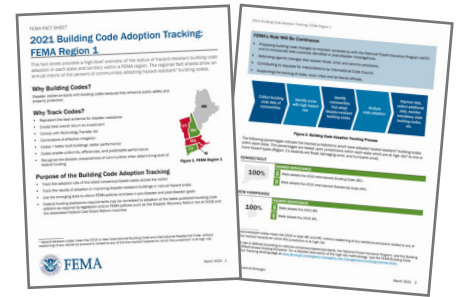


# 2021 Building Code Adoption Tracking Overview

## What are the 2021 Building Code Adoption Tracking Fact Sheets?

FEMA publishes regional Building Code Adoption Tracking (BCAT) Fact Sheets to provide an overview of hazard-resistant building code adoption status in each state and territory within a FEMA region. The BCAT Fact Sheets show an annual percent of communities adopting hazard-resistant building codes in high-risk flood, damaging wind, hurricane wind, tornado, and seismic areas. States and territories are categorized as either “Higher Resistance,” “Moderate Resistance,” or “Lower Resistance,” and a summary of significant building code adoption information is provided.



**Figure 1. Region 1 Fact Sheet**

## Explanation of the Hazard-Resistance Methodology

The BCAT effort tracks five hazards: flood, damaging wind, hurricane wind, tornado, and seismic. The maps, definitions, and provisions of the model codes and the standards underlying those codes, such as American Society of Civil Engineers, Structural Engineering Institute (ASCE/SEI) 7-16, *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*, and ASCE/SEI 24-14, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*, define these five hazards and the areas where they pose the highest risk.

For a state or territory to be designated as having hazard-resistant codes, the 2021 hazard-resistance methodology requires a state- or territory-wide mandatory building code, with residential construction conforming to the 2015 or later International Residential Code (IRC) and non-residential construction conforming to the 2015 or later International Building Code (IBC) (limited exceptions are defined within the model codes themselves). The 2018 IRC and IBC are expected to replace the 2015 IRC and IBC as the minimum hazard-resistant codes by the end of calendar year 2021.

The methodology also requires jurisdictions to maintain the hazard-resistant provisions in the IRC and IBC which relate to their high-risk hazards. Weakening such provisions will cause the jurisdiction to no longer be designated as hazard-resistant. For high flood risk communities to be designated as hazard-resistant, current participation in the National Flood Insurance Program in good standing is also required.

### Why use consensus-based hazard-resistant building codes?

Such codes are the result of a participatory democratic process drawing on a wide universe of knowledgeable and committed scientists and engineers. This process enhances the codes' ability to protect buildings and the lives of those who live and work in them.

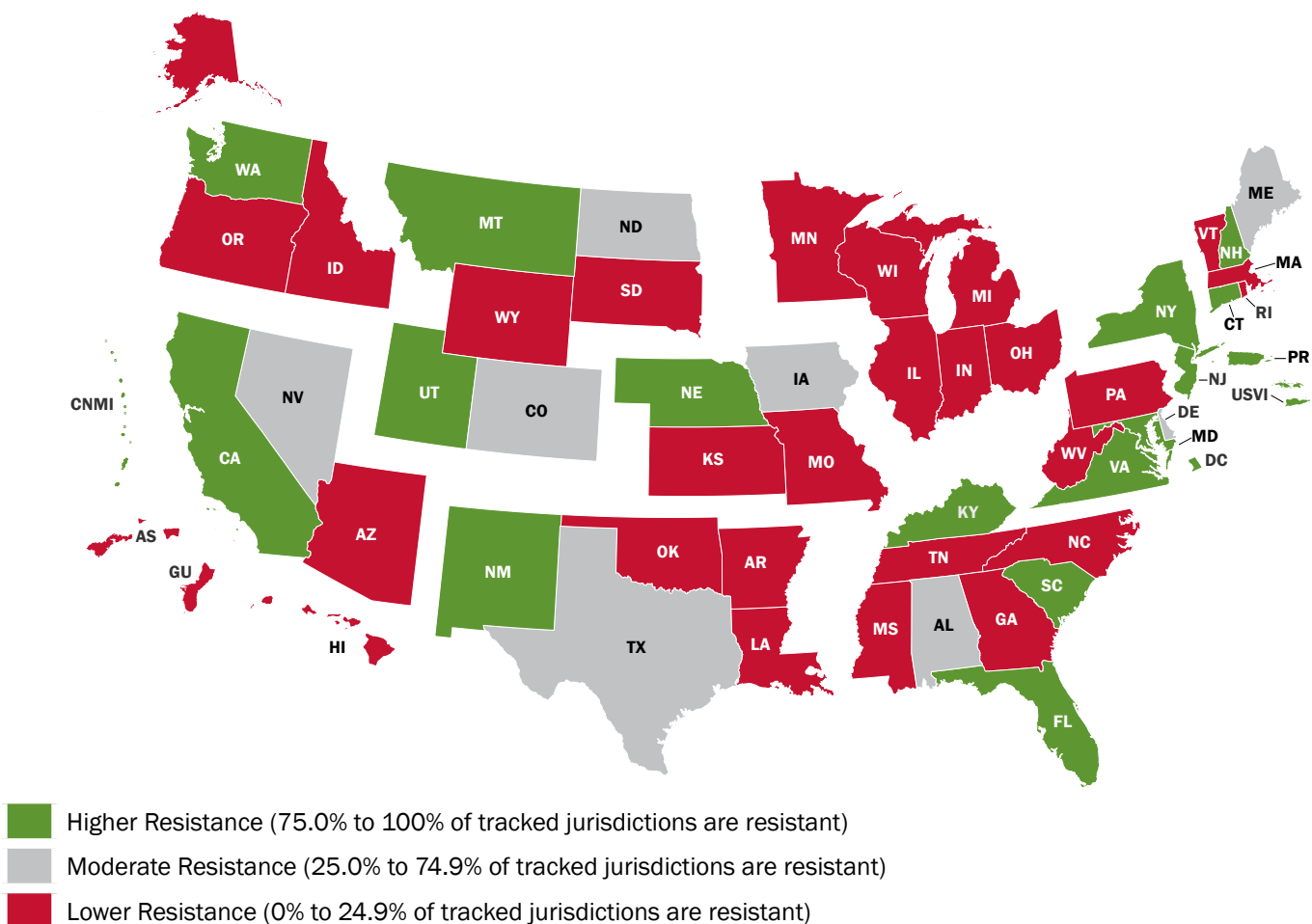


**FEMA**

## How to Use the Regional Fact Sheets

The fact sheets are a tool for FEMA Regional representatives and other stakeholders to use in their outreach efforts to their states and territories to encourage adopting the latest consensus-based hazard-resistant building codes. These fact sheets enhance the resilience conversation and planning between:

- FEMA and state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments during FEMA/State Mitigation Consultations
- state, local, tribal, and territorial Hazard Mitigation Plans updates
- RiskMAP Project lifecycle stages
- preparedness goals
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities projects
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program efforts
- code enforcement projects
- loss avoidance studies
- readiness enhancement for building code administration assistance under DRRRA Section 1206 (Code Implementation and Enforcement)
- and many other activities



**Figure 2. Overview of BCAT Resistance Ratings**