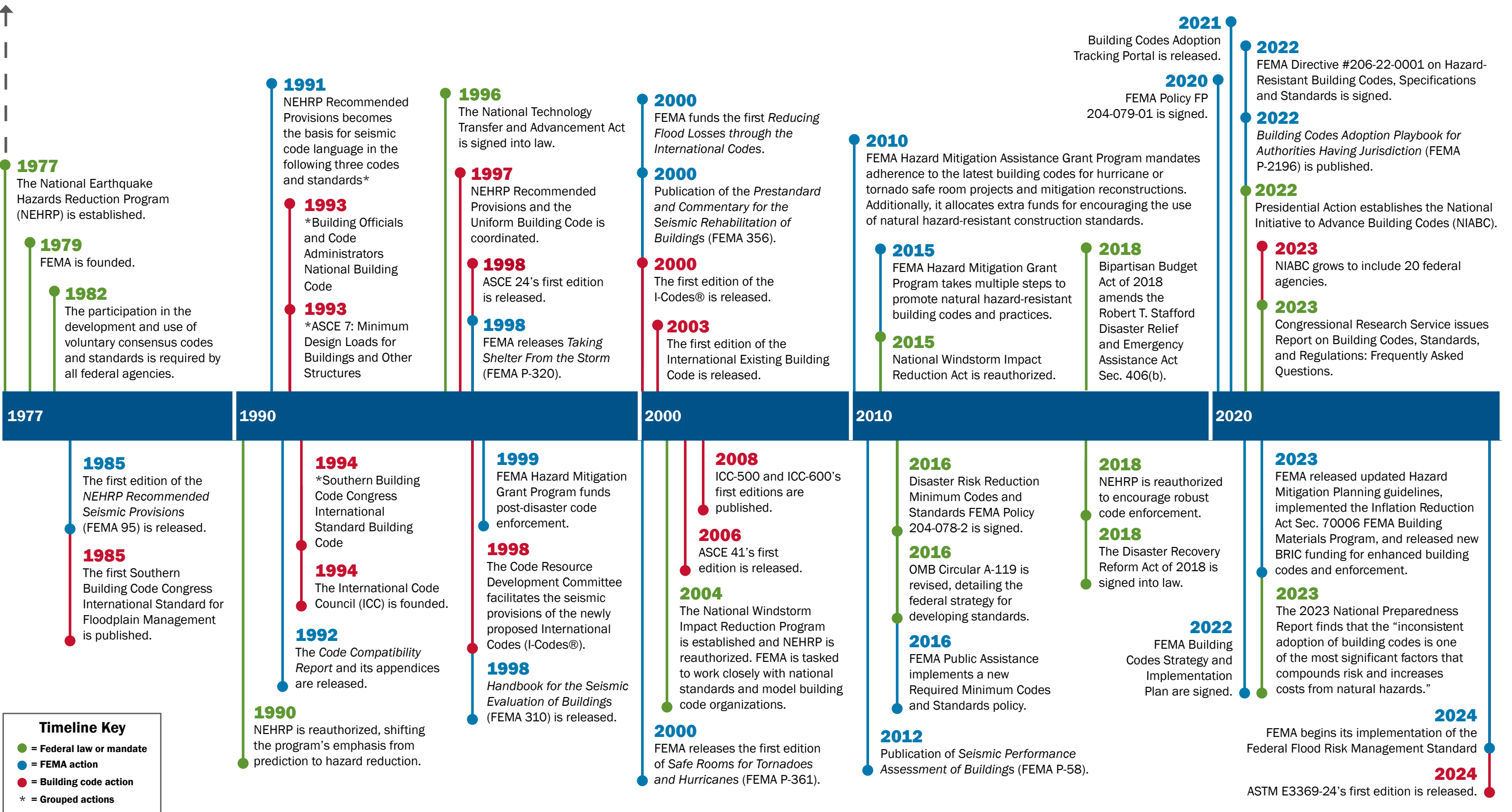


1979 — — — — — FEMA PARTICIPATING IN THE BUILDING CODE AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS — — — — — TODAY


Timeline Key

- = Federal law or mandate
- = FEMA action
- = Building code action
- * = Grouped actions

- **1977**
The [Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 \(Public Law 95-124\)](#) established the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. Program objectives include the development, publication, and promotion of model building codes to address seismic risk.
- **1979**
President Jimmy Carter signed [Executive Order 12148](#), creating FEMA.
- **1982**
[Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Circular A-119](#) requires federal agencies to use available building codes and standards when possible and encourages agencies to participate in the code and standards development process.
- **1985**
FEMA releases [FEMA 95](#), the first edition of the *NEHRP Recommended Provisions for the Development of Seismic Regulations for New Buildings*.
- **1985**
The Southern Building Code Congress published the first iteration of their [model codes](#).
- **1990**
The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-614) instructed FEMA to promote the implementation of earthquake hazard reduction measures by federal, state, and local governments as well as national standards and model building code organizations.
- **1991**
The [1991 edition of the NEHRP Recommended Provisions](#) was used as the basis for the three following codes & standards*
 - **1993**
*Building Officials and Code Administrators National Building Code
 - **1993**
*ASCE 7: Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures
 - **1994**
*Southern Building Code Congress International Standard Building Code
- **1992**
The [Code Compatibility Report](#) (FEMA 296, 297, 298) is released by FEMA. This study worked towards eliminating incompatibilities between National Flood Insurance Program technical guidance and model codes & standards.
- **1994**
The International Code Council is founded and charged to develop a single set of nationally applicable building codes.
- **1996**
The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) ([Public Law 104-113](#)), codified pre-existing policies on the development and use of voluntary consensus standards in OMB Circular A-119.
- **1997**
NEHRP Recommended Provisions and the Uniform Building Code were coordinated and became a prerequisite to the formation of the 2000 International Building Code and served as the basis for the seismic code language found in the first editions of the International Codes.
- **1998**
FEMA and the National Institute of Building Sciences formed the Code Resource Development Committee, which facilitated the seismic provisions of the newly proposed International Building Code and International Residential Code.
- **1998**
ASCE 24's first edition is released, providing design standards for buildings and structures in flood hazard areas.
- **1998**
FEMA releases the first edition to [Taking Shelter From the Storm](#) (FEMA P-320). This publication provides basic safe room information and construction drawings for site-built safe rooms.
- **1998**
FEMA releases FEMA 310, [Handbook for Seismic Evaluation of Buildings](#).
- **1999**
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds are made available to support post-disaster code enforcement. Specifically, extraordinary post-disaster code enforcement costs may be eligible. Funding is available for projects designed to support the post-disaster rebuilding effort by ensuring that sufficient expertise is on hand to ensure appropriate codes and standards, including NFIP local ordinance requirements, are used and enforced.
- **2000**
Publication of FEMA 356, [Prestandard and Commentary for the Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings](#), which later became ASCE 41 Standard for Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings.
- **2000**
ASCE releases the FEMA-funded [Reducing Flood Losses through the International Codes](#). Subsequent editions are jointly authored by ICC and FEMA and helps state and local officials integrate the I-Codes® into their current floodplain management regulatory processes related to coordinate with structures, buildings, and other development in special flood hazard areas in order to meet the requirements to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- **2000**
The first nationally-applicable, voluntary, minimum [consensus model codes](#) published by the International Code Council as the International Codes® – International Building Code, International Residential Code, etc.
- **2000**
FEMA releases the first edition of [Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes](#) (FEMA P-361) which outlines the criteria for a safe room.
- **2003**
The first edition of the [International Existing Building Code](#) is introduced to the I-Codes® series. The code encourages the use and reuse of existing buildings. It recovers repair, alteration, addition, and change of occupancy for existing buildings and historical buildings.
- **2004**
[The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act](#) establishes the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program and National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program is reauthorized. FEMA is tasked to work closely with national standards and model building code organizations.
- **2006**
ASCE 41's first edition is released, providing design standards for the evaluation and rehabilitation of existing buildings to improve their performance during seismic events. providing design standards for the evaluation and rehabilitation of existing buildings to improve their performance during seismic events.
- **2008**
ICC-500's first edition is released, providing design standards for the construction of storm shelters to protect occupants during extreme wind events such as tornadoes and hurricanes.
- **2008**
ICC-600's first edition is released, providing design standards for the construction of residential buildings in areas prone to high winds to enhance structural resilience and occupant safety.
- **2010**
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program requires all hurricane or tornado safe room projects to be in accordance with latest edition of ICC-500.
- **2010**
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program requires all mitigation reconstruction activities must be completed in accordance with the latest editions of the I-Codes® and ASCE/SEI 24.
- **2010**
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program sets aside additional 5% initiative includes evaluation of model building codes.
- **2012**
Publication of [Seismic Performance Assessment of Buildings](#) (FEMA P-58), which allows for the seismic performance assessment of buildings to higher performance levels than code based life safety.
- **2015**
[FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) sets aside an additional 5% of funding for activities that promote use of disaster-resistant codes for all hazards. FEMA's intention in supporting the adoption and enforcement of building codes is to promote resilience by using disaster-resistant practices. A building is considered disaster resistant when it not only protects its occupants but can also be quickly repaired and re-occupied because damage from natural disasters is minimized.
- **2015**
[National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015 \(Public Law 114-52\)](#) requires FEMA to work closely with national standards and model building code organizations, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to promote the implementation of research results and better building practices within the building design and construction industry, including architects, engineers, contractors, builders, and inspectors.
- **2015**
[FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program](#) requires all structure elevation and dry floodproofing projects to be in accordance with latest edition of ASCE/SEI 24 Flood Resistant Design and Construction.
- **2016**
[OMB Circular A-119](#) is revised, detailing the federal strategy for developing standards. Agencies are encouraged to participate on standards bodies while specifying reporting requirements on conformity assessment activities. Additionally, it informs agencies of their statutory obligations related to standards setting.
- **2016**
Disaster Risk Reduction Minimum Codes and Standards [FEMA Policy 204-078-2](#) is signed on 6 September 2016 by Administrator Fugate. For first time, FEMA has an agency-wide policy on minimum building codes and standards.
- **2016**
[FEMA Public Assistance](#) implements a new Required Minimum Codes and Standards policy generally requiring applicants to incorporate the natural hazard-resistant codes and standards and related provisions referenced in the most recent published edition of the I-Codes®.
- **2018**
Under the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018](#), the President may provide incentives to a state or tribal government to invest in measures that increase readiness for, and resilience from, a major disaster by recognizing such investments through a sliding scale that increases the minimum Federal share to 85%. Such measures may include - (iii) encouraging the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs and establish minimum acceptable criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures and facilities that may be eligible for assistance under this Act for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the buildings' users against disasters.

2018

[NEHRP Reauthorization of 2018 \(Public Law 115-307\)](#) expands activities to include: (1) gathering information on community resilience (i.e., the ability of a community to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to earthquakes); (2) publishing a systematic set of maps of active faults and folds, liquefaction susceptibility for earthquake-induced landslides, and other seismically induced hazards; and (3) continuing the development of the Advanced National Seismic System, including earthquake early warning capabilities.

2018

[Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018](#) amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, including the addition of direct references to the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards.

2018

Goal #1 in the [FEMA Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#) is to Build a Culture of Preparedness and includes Objective 1.1 to Incentivize Investments that Reduce Risk, Including Pre-disaster Mitigation, and Reduce Disaster Costs at All Levels, which states: “FEMA will continue to work directly with SLTT and non-governmental partners to advocate for the adoption and enforcement of modern building and property codes. Disaster resilience starts with building codes, because they enhance public safety and property protection. Furthermore, FEMA will encourage robust code enforcement, providing education and training when needed to help convey the value of standardized, up-to-date building codes.”

2020

Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement ([FEMA Policy FP 204-079-01](#)) was signed and it defines the framework and requirements for consistent and appropriate implementation of section 1206 of DRRRA through the PA Program.

2021

FEMA releases the first-ever free WebGIS [Nationwide Building Codes Adoption Tracking Portal](#), allowing users to access data on any jurisdiction’s building and residential code adoption and view state or territory mutual aid laws on building codes assistance

2022

[FEMA Building Codes Strategy](#) and Implementation Plan are signed and released, acting as the blueprint for organizing and advancing FEMA’s building code efforts over the next several years to help people before, during and after disasters.

2022

FEMA Directive #206-22-0001 on Hazard-Resistant Building Codes, Specifications and Standards is signed.

2022

[Building Codes Adoption Playbook for Authorities Having Jurisdiction](#) (FEMA P-2196) is published.

2022

Presidential Action establishes the [National Initiative to Advance Building Codes](#) and directs FEMA to lead this effort through the Interagency Mitigation Framework Leadership Group.

2022

Goal 2 of the [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#) is to “Lead Whole of Community in Climate Resilience,” emphasizing the adoption and enforcement of natural hazard-resistant building codes that can be advanced through FEMA actions.

2022

FEMA NEHRP starts the consensus development of *2026 NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions for New Buildings and Other Structures*. This widely recognized NEHRP code resource translates the latest new knowledge and research results to improve and strengthen the nation’s design standards and model building codes for earthquake resistance. The new cycle of the Provisions development includes a major effort on functional recovery design criteria and methodology, which is aimed at bolstering a new generation of earthquake engineering.

2023

The NIABC MitFLG Building Codes Task Force grows to twenty federal agencies with ten agencies, including FEMA, having finalized Implementation Plans.

2023

Congressional Research Service issues Report on [Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations: Frequently Asked Questions](#). This report covers how laws enacted by Congress and implementation of legislation by federal agencies impact building codes throughout the United States.

2023

FEMA’s [Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) grant program for makes funding available for building code adoption and enforcement under the Capability and Capacity-Building set aside and offers new dedicated Building Code Plus-Up funding available for every state and territory.

2023

FEMA releases updated [Hazard Mitigation Planning Program Policy and Guidance](#), emphasizing the adoption of modern, natural hazard-resistant statewide building codes for Enhanced Mitigation Plans.

2023

FEMA implements Inflation Reduction Act Sec. 70006 FEMA BUILDING MATERIALS PROGRAM providing financial assistance for costs associated with low-carbon materials and incentives that encourage low-carbon and net-zero energy projects.

2023

The [2023 National Preparedness Report](#) finds that the “inconsistent adoption of building codes is one of the most significant factors that compounds risk and increases costs from natural hazards.”

2024

FEMA begins its implementation of the [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard](#).

2024

The American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) released the first-ever consensus standard specification E3369-24 for Determining the Flood Damage Resistance Rating of Building Materials. The specification is the culmination of 20 years of research, field tests, post-disaster studies, federal agency collaboration, and participation in the consensus standards development process to establish procedures for determining whether building materials are considered flood-damage resistant for construction intended to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.