

2024 Building Code Adoption Tracking: FEMA Region 10

This fact sheet provides a high-level overview of the status of hazard-resistant building code adoption in each state and territory within a FEMA region. The regional fact sheets show an annual metric of the percent of communities adopting hazard-resistant¹ building codes. Notes in *italics* indicate non-weakening notes relating to administrative, enforcement, or other non-design provisions.

Why Building Codes?

Disaster resilience starts with building codes because they enhance public safety and property protection.

Why Track Codes?

- Represent the best evidence for disaster resistance
- Create best overall return on investment
- Comply with [Technology Transfer Act](#)
- Cornerstone of effective mitigation to reduce losses in future disasters
- Codes = better built buildings, better performance during natural hazards
- Hazard codes for seismic, high winds, water and fire enable uniformity, efficiencies, and predictable performance
- Recognize the disaster preparedness of communities when determining level of federal funding

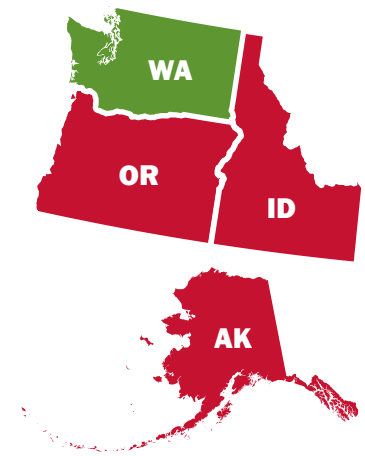


Figure 1. FEMA Region 10

Purpose of Building Code Adoption Tracking

- Track the adoption rate of the latest consensus-based codes across the nation
- Track the results of adoption in improving disaster-resistant buildings in natural hazard areas
- Use the emerging data to inform FEMA policies and laws in pre-disaster and post-disaster goals
- Federal funding assistance requirements may be correlated to adoption of the latest published building code editions as required by legislation and/or FEMA policies such as the [Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018](#) and the associated Federal Cost Share Reform Incentive

¹ Hazard-resistant codes mean the 2018 or later International Building Code and International Residential Code, without weakening of any resilience provisions related to any of the five tracked hazards for which the jurisdiction is at high risk.



FEMA’s Role Will Be Continuous

- Proposing building code changes to maintain consistency with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to incorporate best practices identified in post-disaster investigations.
- Defending against changes that weaken flood, wind, and seismic provisions.
- Contributing to requests for interpretations by International Code Council.
- Supporting the training of state, local, tribal and territorial officials.



Figure 2. Building Code Adoption Tracking Process

The following percentages indicate the tracked jurisdictions which have adopted hazard-resistant² building codes within each state. The percentages are based upon jurisdictions within each state which are at high risk³ to one or more hazard types (Region 10’s hazards are flood, damaging wind, and seismic):

WASHINGTON

92.2%

HIGHER RESISTANCE

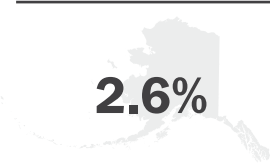
- IBC** State adopts the 2021 International Building Code (IBC).
Note that state exempts housing for temporary workers from the building code and regulates such structures separately under Washington Administrative Code Chapter 246-359.
- IRC** State adopts the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC).
Note that state exempts housing for temporary workers from the residential code and regulates such structures separately under Washington Administrative Code Chapter 246-359.

Note: The state is not fully resistant because some jurisdictions with high flood risk do not participate in the NFIP.

² Hazard-resistant codes mean the 2018 or later IBC and IRC, without weakening of any resilience provisions related to any of the five tracked hazards for which the jurisdiction is at high risk.

³ High-risk is defined according to national consensus-based standards, the National Flood Insurance Program, and the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. For a detailed description of the high-risk methodology, visit the FEMA Building Code Adoption Tracking landing page at www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/bcat/.

ALASKA



LOWER RESISTANCE

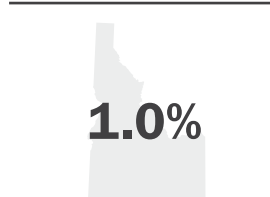
IBC

State adopts the 2021 IBC.

IRC

No statewide residential code.

IDAHO



LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC

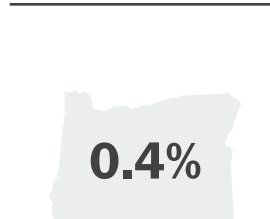
State adopts the 2018 IBC. Local jurisdictions which adopt or enforce a building code must use the state code. Local jurisdictions are not required to adopt and enforce a code and in those jurisdictions builders are not required to adhere to the state building code.

IRC

State adopts the 2018 IRC. Local jurisdictions which adopt or enforce a residential code must use the state code. Local jurisdictions are not required to adopt and enforce a code and in those jurisdictions builders are not required to adhere to the state residential code. State weakens flood resistance by removing the freeboard elevation requirement for flood hazard areas (R322.2.1).

Note that state also deletes the NFIP-specified criteria for granting a variance in a flood hazard area (R104.10.1).

OREGON



LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts the 2021 IBC. State weakens flood resistance by deleting Sec. 1612.3.1 (Design Flood Elevations) and Sec. 1612.3.2 (Determination of Impacts). State weakens seismic resistance in new Sec. 1613.4.2, which modifies referenced standard ASCE 7-16, Section 13.1.4, to use less conservative values.

IRC

State adopts the 2021 IRC. State weakens flood resistance by introducing new section R102.4.3, which removes the elevation requirements of ASCE 24. State weakens seismic resilience by raising the average dead load threshold in R301.2.2.2 for floor assemblies from 10 to 15 pounds per square foot.