FEMA FACT SHEET

2024 Building Code Adoption Tracking: FEMA Region 8

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-resistant[1] 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.

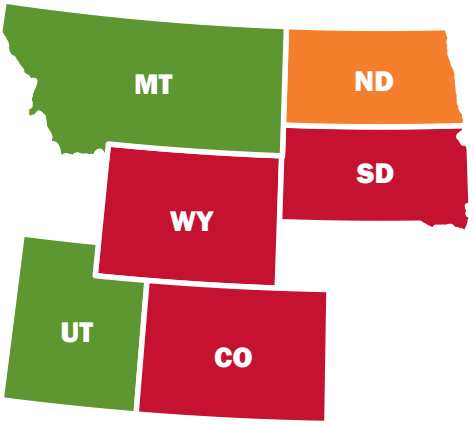


Figure 1. FEMA Region 8

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

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.

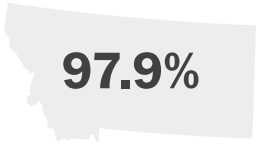
FEMA's Role Will Be Continuous

- 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-resistant[2] building codes within each state. The percentages are based upon jurisdictions within each state which are at high risk[3] to one or more hazard types (Region 8's hazards are flood, damaging wind, tornado, and seismic):

MONTANA



HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC — State adopts the 2021 International Building Code (IBC).

IRC — State adopts the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC).

Note: 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/.

UTAH

87.6%

HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC State adopts the 2021 IBC. State strengthens seismic resistance by adding new Section 1613.1.1 (Effective Seismic Weight), which modifies the referenced ASCE 7-16 formulas to use more conservative values.

IRC State adopts the 2021 IRC.

NORTH DAKOTA

47.1%

MODERATE RESISTANCE

IBC State adopts the 2021 IBC, but it is optional rather than mandatory for jurisdictions.

IRC State adopts the 2021 IRC, but it is optional rather than mandatory for jurisdictions.

SOUTH DAKOTA

22.9%

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC State law applies the 2021 IBC to new non-residential construction where no local building code has been adopted. State law requires local jurisdictions, when adopting or updating their building codes, to use the 2021 IBC. Jurisdictions may modify the 2021 IBC as they choose, and those with older codes already in place are not required to adopt the 2021 IBC nor to update their current older code.

IRC No statewide IRC. Jurisdictions are not required to adopt and enforce any residential code, but those that newly enact a residential code must use the 2021 IRC, although they may amend it as they choose.

WYOMING

22.2%

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC State adopts the 2021 IBC. Note that the state requires 2021 IBC plan review only for select categories of buildings.

IRC No statewide IRC.

COLORADO

19.9%

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC State adopts the 2021 IBC for construction by state agencies on state-owned or state-lease purchased properties or facilities, and for buildings and structures within the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety, Fire Prevention & Control Division (namely limited gaming structures, waste tire facilities, public schools, and fireworks storage structures). There is no statewide mandatory building code for general new non-residential construction.

IRC State adopts the 2021 IRC for construction by state agencies on state-owned or state-lease purchased properties or facilities, and for buildings and structures within the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Public Safety, Fire Prevention & Control Division. There is no statewide mandatory building code for general new non-residential construction.