2025 Building Code Adoption Tracking Overview

What are the 2025 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.

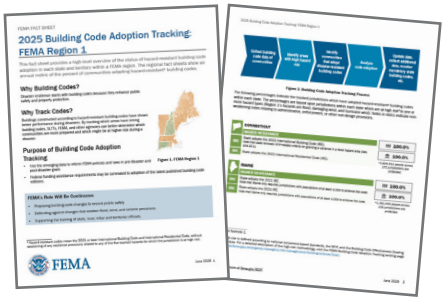

Figure 1. Fact Sheets by FEMA Region

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, Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures, and ASCE/SEI 24, Flood Resistant Design and Construction, define these five hazards and the areas where they pose the highest risk.

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

For a state or territory to be designated as having hazard-resistant codes, the 2025 hazard-resistance methodology requires a state- or territory-wide mandatory building code, with one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses not more than three stories above grade conforming to the 2021 or 2024 International Residential Code (IRC) and all other construction conforming to the 2021 or 2024 International Building Code (IBC) (limited exceptions are defined within the model codes themselves).

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.

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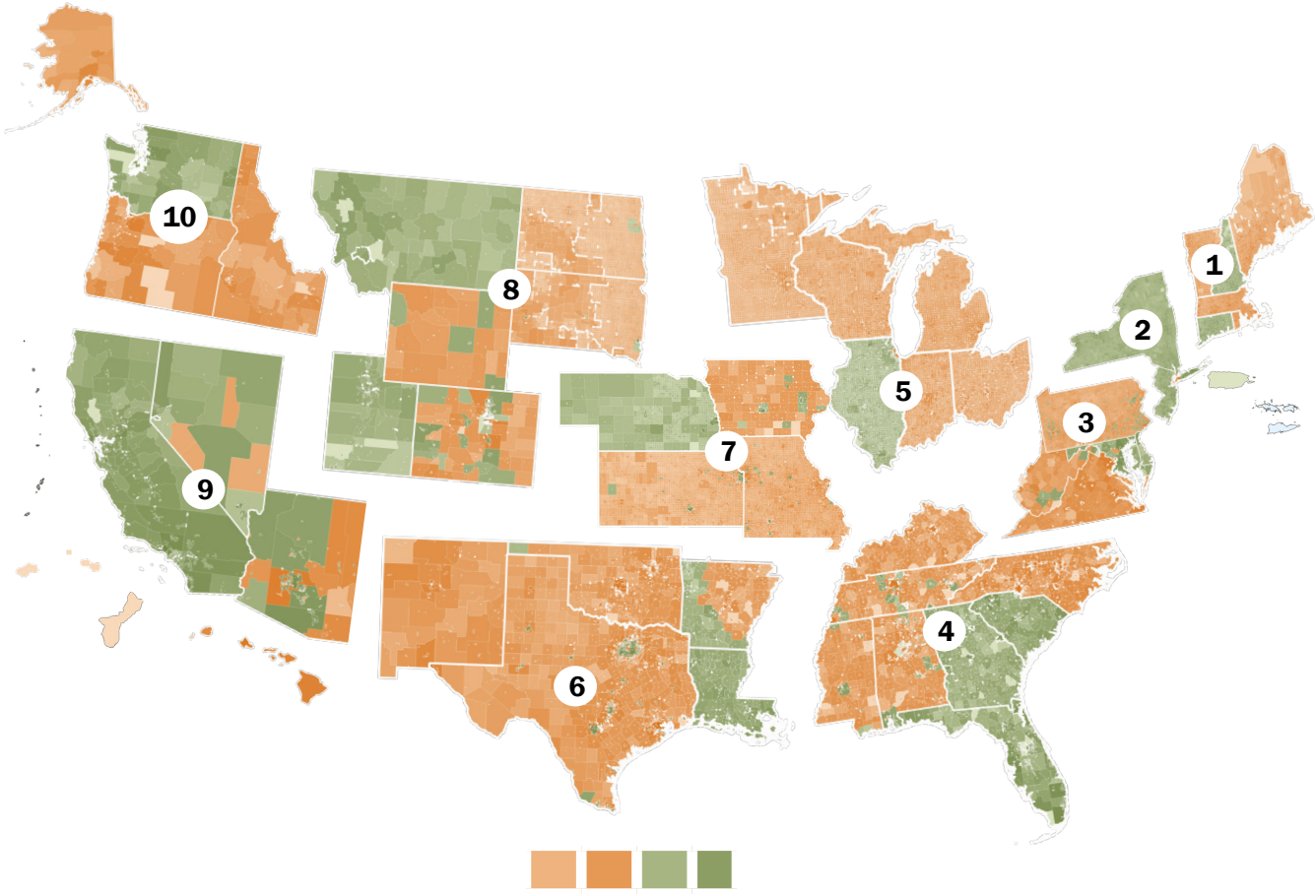
How to Use the Regional Fact Sheets

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 for:

- FEMA and state, local, tribal and territorial governments during FEMA/State Mitigation Consultations
- Updates to state, local, tribal and territorial Hazard Mitigation Plans
- RiskMAP Project lifecycle stages
- Supporting and implementing preparedness goals
- Code enforcement projects
- Loss avoidance studies
- Readiness enhancement for building code administration assistance under the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, Section 1206 - Code Implementation and Enforcement



Darker colors signify higher population density. Orange represents jurisdictions with outdated or weakened codes, while green indicates those with current codes.

Figure 2. Overview of BCAT Population Density Grouped by FEMA Region