2025 Building Code Adoption Tracking: FEMA Region 5

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.

Why Building Codes?

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

Why Track Codes?

Buildings constructed according to hazard-resistant building codes have shown better performance during disasters. By tracking which areas have strong building codes, SLTTs, FEMA, and other agencies can better determine which communities are more prepared and which might be at higher risk during a disaster.

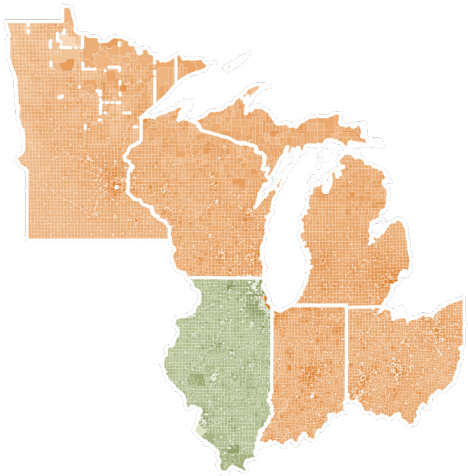

Figure 1. FEMA Region 5

Purpose of Building Code Adoption Tracking

- 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.

FEMA's Role Will Be Continuous

- Proposing building code changes to ensure public safety
- Defending against changes that weaken flood, wind, and seismic provisions.
- Supporting the training of state, local, tribal and territorial officials.

[1] Hazard-resistant codes mean the 2021 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.

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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 5's hazards are flood, damaging wind, tornado, and seismic). Notes in *italics* indicate non-weakening notes relating to administrative, enforcement, or other non-design provisions.

ILLINOIS

HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC	Illinois requires code-enforcing jurisdictions to enforce requirements equal to the minimum stringency of the International Building Code (IBC) editions published over the preceding 9 calendar years, and requires construction in non-code-enforcing jurisdictions to conform to one of the two most recent IBC editions.
IRC	Illinois requires code-enforcing jurisdictions to enforce requirements equal to the minimum stringency of the International Residential Code (IRC) editions published over the preceding 9 calendar years, and in non-code-enforcing jurisdictions a contract to build new residential construction must adopt as part of the contract one of the two most recent IRC editions.

50.6%

80.1%

**5,474,320 people across 742 jurisdictions are protected.*

[2] See footnote 1.

[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/.

INDIANA

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts an outdated IBC (2012 edition). State weakens the flood provisions by removing establishment of flood hazard areas (Sec. 1612.3). State weakens the seismic provisions by eliminating Seismic Design Category D requirements for buildings and structures in Risk Categories I, II, and III in Sec. 1613.3.5, other than for H and E occupancies.

IRC

State adopts an outdated IRC (2018 edition).. State weakens flood resistance by amending R322.2.1 to lower design flood elevation from 3ft to 2ft in AO zones when no flood depth is specified on the Flood Insurance Rate Map, and to remove the elevation requirement for basement floors which are below grade on all sides. State weakens seismic resistance by replacing Table R301.2(1) with a new table including weakened seismic categories for some counties.

Note that state amends R326.1 to remove the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code reference, losing application of ASCE 24 to pool construction in Flood Hazard Areas. Note also that state amends R105 to exempt existing portions of structures from compliance with the latest code during substantial improvement or repair.

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 812 jurisdictions are protected.*

MICHIGAN

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts the 2021 IBC. State weakens tornado resistance by not adopting IBC Sections 423.5, 423.5.1, and 423.5.2 specifying ICC 500 storm shelter requirements for Group E Occupancy buildings.

IRC

State adopts an outdated IRC (2015 edition). State's new residential code will be based on the 2021 IRC and takes effect on August 29, 2025.

Note that state replaces R106.1.4 (Information for Construction in Flood Hazard Areas) with different material (Truss Design Data), thereby losing the model flood administrative provision.

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 1,652 jurisdictions are protected.*

MINNESOTA

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts an outdated IBC (2018 edition). State weakens flood provisions by deleting Sec. 1612, and by referencing an outdated floodproofing standard from 1972, in lieu of ASCE 24-14, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*.

IRC

State adopts an outdated IRC (2018 edition). State weakens flood provisions by deleting Flood-Resistant Construction (R322) and referencing an outdated floodproofing standard from 1972, in lieu of ASCE 24-14, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*.

Note that state deletes Chapter 1 and refers to state administrative provisions, which lack NFIP requirements of variance criteria (R104.10.1) and documentation of lowest floor elevation (R106.1.4; R109.1.3), and determination of substantial improvement/repair (R105.3.1.1).

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 827 jurisdictions are protected.*

OHIO

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts the 2021 IBC. State weakens tornado resistance by deleting IBC Sec. 423.5 and its subsections (pertaining to storm shelters in Group E occupancies).

IRC

State adopts an outdated IRC (2018 edition).
Note that, unlike with Ohio's IBC, enforcement of the IRC is the exclusive responsibility of the local jurisdiction. (In the absence of local enforcement, compliance with the Ohio IRC is still the responsibility of the builder.)

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 2,272 jurisdictions are protected.*

WISCONSIN

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts an outdated IBC (2015 edition). State weakens tornado resistance by removing Sections 423.3 and 423.4, which require ICC 500 storm shelters for critical facilities and Group E Occupancy buildings in areas where the shelter design wind speed for tornadoes is 250 mph or greater.

IRC

State adopts its own non-resistant standards for residential construction. State requirements lack certain flood resistant provisions found in the 2018 IRC, such as: R322.1.3, R322.1.4.2, R322.1.8. State provisions also lack any freeboard requirement. State wind design provisions allow for less conservative wind pressures and reference an outdated standard: ASCE 7-05, *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*.

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 2,052 jurisdictions are protected.*