2025 Building Code Adoption Tracking: FEMA Region 6

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.

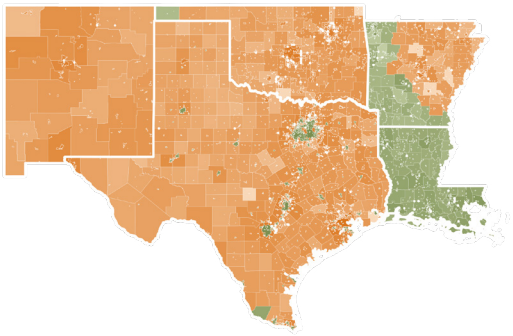

Figure 1. Region 6

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

LOUISIANA

HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC	State adopts the 2021 IBC.
IRC	State adopts the 2021 IRC.

99.9%

98.4%

**4,654,684 people across 127 jurisdictions are protected.*

NEW MEXICO

MODERATE RESISTANCE

IBC	State adopts the 2021 IBC with Appendix G (Flood-Resistant Construction). State weakens seismic resistance in Secs. 2111.5 and 2113.4 by removing model code requirements related to anchoring for masonry chimneys and fireplaces. *Note that state removes NFIP-related criteria for issuance of a variance in a Flood Hazard Area from Sec. 104.10.1.*
IRC	State adopts the 2021 IRC. State weakens seismic resistance in Sec. R301.1.1 by excepting buildings in Seismic Design Categories D0 and D1 with bearing walls made of earthen material from the seismic design requirements of the code. *Note that state removes NFIP-related administrative flood provisions including: (1) criteria for issuance of a variance (R104.10.1), (2) documentation/inspection of lowest floor elevation (R109.1.3), and (3) substantial improvement/repair determinations (R105.3.1.1).*

36.5%

55.7%

**772,382 people across 122 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/.

ARKANSAS

MODERATE RESISTANCE

IBC	State adopts the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). State weakens seismic resistance in Sec. 1613.1 by adding an exception whereby buildings and structures complying with Arkansas Code Sec. 12-80-104(a)(2) need not comply with IBC Sec. 1613.1. Arkansas Code Sec. 12-80-104(a)(2) allows manufacturing, industrial, and public works buildings in Categories I and II to use less conservative mapped ground motion response accelerations than those in the 2021 IBC.
IRC	State adopts the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC).

43.6%

38.8%

**923,744 people across 255 jurisdictions are protected.*

TEXAS

MODERATE RESISTANCE

IBC	State adopts an outdated IBC (2012 edition) for municipalities. State also gives municipalities broad discretion to modify the IBC.
IRC	State adopts an outdated IRC (2012 edition) for municipalities. State also gives jurisdictions broad discretion to modify the IRC.

30.4%

18.8%

**8,374,331 people across 949 jurisdictions are protected.*

OKLAHOMA

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC	State adopts an outdated IBC (2018 edition). Oklahoma weakens tornado resistance for Group E occupancies by raising the occupant load threshold which triggers the storm shelter requirement in IBC Sec. 423.4 from “50 or more” to “over 200.”
IRC	State adopts an outdated IRC (2018 edition).

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 218 jurisdictions are protected.*