

2025 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-resistant¹ 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.

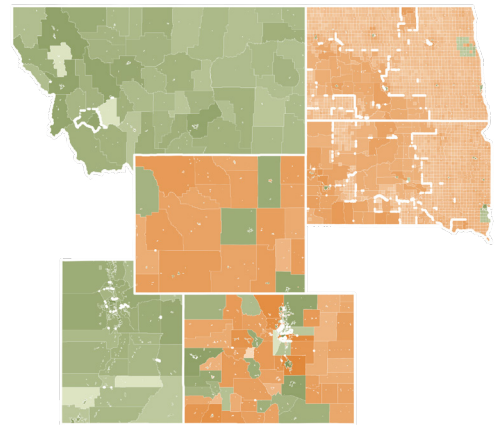


Figure 1. FEMA Region 8

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.





Figure 2. Building Code Adoption Tracking Process

The following percentages indicate the tracked jurisdictions and populations which have adopted hazard-resistant² building codes within each state and territory. The percentages are based upon jurisdictions within each state and territory which are at high risk³ to one or more hazard types (Region 8’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.

MONTANA

HIGHER RESISTANCE

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

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

99.6%

95.1%

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

**1,079,838 people across 164 jurisdictions are protected.*

UTAH

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.













98.4%

89.1%

**3,218,122 people across 291 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/.

	NORTH DAKOTA HIGHER RESISTANCE	 94.8%
IBC	State adopts the 2021 IBC, but it is optional rather than mandatory for jurisdictions.	 71.9%
IRC	State adopts the 2021 IRC, but it is optional rather than mandatory for jurisdictions.	<i>*550,819 people across 328 jurisdictions are protected.</i>
	SOUTH DAKOTA MODERATE RESISTANCE	 52.4%
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.	 8.5%
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.	<i>*311,769 people across 175 jurisdictions are protected.</i>
	WYOMING MODERATE RESISTANCE	 44.9%
IBC	State adopts the 2024 IBC. Note that the state requires 2021 IBC plan review only for select categories of buildings.	 25.3%
IRC	No statewide IRC.	<i>*247,760 people across 91 jurisdictions are protected.</i>
	COLORADO MODERATE RESISTANCE	 43.3%
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.	 14.5%
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.	<i>*2,492,718 people across 278 jurisdictions are protected.</i>