FEMA FACT SHEET

2025 Building Code Adoption Tracking: FEMA Region 9

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.

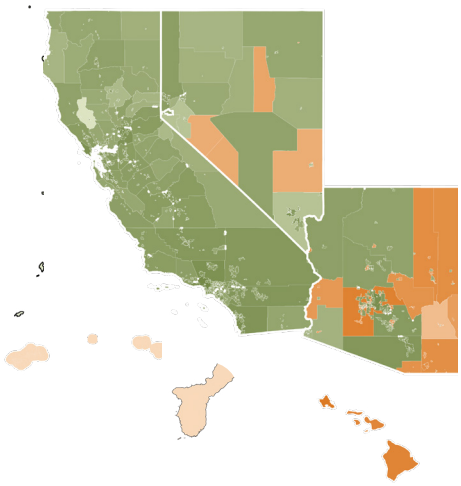

Figure 1. FEMA Region 9

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 and populations which have adopted hazard-resistant[2] building codes within each state and territory. The percentages are based upon jurisdictions within each state and territory which are at high risk[3] to one or more hazard types (Region 9's hazards are flood, damaging wind, hurricane, and seismic). Notes in *italics* indicate non-weakening notes relating to administrative, enforcement, or other non-design provisions.

CALIFORNIA

HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC	State adopts the 2021 IBC. State strengthens seismic resilience in IBC § 1613.2.5 by setting Seismic Design Category D as the mandatory minimum category for structures under the jurisdiction of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and by prohibiting the alternative Seismic Design Category determination of § 1613.2.5.1 and the simplified design procedure of § 1613.2.5.2 for structures under the jurisdiction of the Division of the State Architect—Structural Safety and those under the jurisdiction of OSHPD.
IRC	State adopts the 2021 IRC. *Note that state does not adopt R322.1.9 (containing flood design specifications for manufactured homes) nor R327.1 (requiring, via application of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, swimming pools in coastal high-hazard areas to conform to ASCE 24).*

99.8%

98.6%

**39,448,191 people across 711 jurisdictions are protected.*

ARIZONA

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC	No statewide IBC.
IRC	No statewide IRC.

9.8%

10.3%

**701,971 people across 107 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/.

NEVADA

MODERATE RESISTANCE

IBC	State has adopted an outdated IBC (2018 edition) for state construction, with some exceptions. There is no statewide mandatory building code for new non-residential construction generally.
IRC	State has adopted an outdated IRC (2018 edition) for state construction, with some exceptions. There is no statewide mandatory residential code for new residential construction generally.

1.1%

9.1%

**33,185 people across 44 jurisdictions are protected.*

AMERICAN SAMOA

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC	No territory-wide IBC. Territory has instead adopted an outdated, non-resistant code (1964 UBC).
IRC	No territory-wide IRC.

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 76 jurisdictions are protected.*

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC	Territory adopts an outdated International Building Code (2018 edition), with Appendix G.
IRC	Territory adopts an outdated International Residential Code (2018 edition).

0.0%

0.0%

**421,985 people across 1,652 jurisdictions are protected.*

GUAM

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC	Territory adopts an outdated IBC (2009 edition).
IRC	Territory adopts an outdated IRC (2009 edition).

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 19 jurisdictions are protected.*

HAWAII

LOWER RESISTANCE

IBC	The unamended 2021 IBC automatically became the new Hawaii State Building Code by operation of law on 10/23/2022, two years after IBC's publication date of 10/23/2020. Hawaii Governor suspended the state law imposing the new Hawaii State Building Code upon Hawaii counties beginning with the Governor's Ninth Proclamation Related to Affordable Housing (October 2024). The Hawaii State Building Code is now an optional code for counties to adopt, until the suspension of HRS § 107-28 is lifted or expires. Counties may still adopt a newer code. Counties may also remain on the previous state building code, which was based on the 2018 IBC and weakened hurricane resistance by amending Sec. 1609.2 to remove certain requirements for protection of openings and by introducing new Sec. 429 to allow residential safe rooms to be built below the model code's wind load design requirements for residential safe rooms.
IRC	The unamended 2021 IRC automatically became the new Hawaii State Residential Code by operation of law in January 2023, two years after IRC's publication date of January 2021. The Governor's Ninth Proclamation Related to Affordable Housing (October 2024) suspended the law imposing the new Hawaii State Building Code upon Hawaii counties. The Hawaii State Residential Code is now an optional code for counties to adopt, until the suspension of HRS § 107-28 is lifted or expires. Counties may still adopt a new code. Counties may also remain on the previous state residential code.

0.0%

0.0%

**0 people across 5 jurisdictions are protected.*