***Fire Code Officials Utilize the “Cloud” to Develop Fire Safety***

***And Building Construction Codes***

***Your codes will be part of an online effort to create safe and resilient local communities***

Across the United States, buildings – from one-family homes to towering skyscrapers – are constructed with strict compliance to a number of codes, covering everything from structural integrity to fire safety to plumbing and energy efficiency. It’s easy to take these codes for granted, but behind the most-used suite of codes in the U.S., there is a rigorous development process, which your department or jurisdiction more than likely already participates in. That development process just got a lot more user-friendly, especially for governmental entities.

To give a bit of background, the International Code Council (ICC) is a U.S. based nonprofit association governed by representatives from state and local jurisdictions. ICC supports Federal, State, and local governmental entities by developing model codes and standards which are then reviewed, adapted and adopted as the basis for building safety regulations at all levels of government. The *I-Codes* —including the *International Fire Code* (IFC), *International Building Code* (IBC) and *International Residential Code* (IRC) – support public and first-responder safety and the need for one set of codes without regional limitations. Now, the ICC has introduced cdpACCESS, a collaborative online platform revolutionizing the way the model building construction and fire safety codes are developed. As a result, governmental entities are provided with additional opportunity to participate at all stages of development and benefit from code uniformity that encourages local, affordable construction growth and provides for the safety of our built environment.

For decades, state and local jurisdictions have been participating in ICC’s open and transparent code development process. It is an inclusive process that allows input from all stakeholders; including code officials, individuals and groups, elected officials and other representatives of government. They create code change proposals and monitor the proposal’s progress, submit comments and weigh in on the impact that current regulations or proposed language would have on the built environment. This all used to be a paper-based, mail-in process, but with cdpACCESS, that process has moved online, where users can create proposals, collaborate easily with anyone across the country or around the world, and submit them for a public vote to be included in the next cycle of codes—all at no cost to the user.

**Three simple steps** will make you eligible to vote:

1. Make sure your department is a Member (if not, [click here](http://go.iccsafe.org/e/25182/Membership-Pages-join-aspx/hm8vs/502938003) to join)
and [signed up to vote](http://go.iccsafe.org/e/25182/s-VoterDesignationProcess-aspx/hm8vv/502938003).
2. [Update](http://go.iccsafe.org/e/25182/s-VoterDesignationProcess-aspx/hm8vv/502938003) your department’s **“Designated Voting Representatives”**. This must be completed annually!
3. [Log in to collaborate and vote on code change proposals](http://go.iccsafe.org/e/25182/2015-01-05/hm8vq/502938003), using cdpACCESS. Online voting opens in May and October 2015.

**IMPORTANT:** Registration for 2015 ***starts January 1***. You must be an ICC Voting Member ***before March 20*** to vote online for the **2018 Group A Codes:** [IBC-E, IBC-FS, IBC-G, IEBC, IFGC, IMC, IPC, IPMC, IPSDC, IRC-M, IRC-P, ISPSC and IZC](http://go.iccsafe.org/e/25182/Committee-Responsibilities-pdf/hm8vx/502938003).
 **Group A Committee Action Hearings: Apr. 19-30, 2015, in Memphis, TN.**
Online voting will be approximately May 11-22.

**Group A Public Comment Hearings: Sep. 30 – Oct. 7, 2015, Long Beach, CA.**
Online voting will be approximately October 19-30.

And that’s not all. With cdpACCESS, ICC voting members (designated representatives from all levels of government, including the fire service) can now securely vote on those code changes online, where before they would have had to attend the ICC code hearings in person, which, while free to attend, often required travel and lodging expenses that many smaller jurisdictions couldn’t (or wouldn’t) afford, meaning larger states with bigger budgets got more say.

Those who may not be able to attend the annual meeting and hearings will not miss out on the interactions and testimony as all testimony and commentary made on the floor will be available to be viewed on the cdpACCESS page, allowing those voting remotely to be as informed as possible.

“The ultimate goal is to provide a superior way to develop codes and increase participation in code development,” said ICC CEO Dominic Sims, CBO. “We are confident that code development participants and public safety will benefit from cdpACCESS.”

The following is a rundown of the list of cdpACCESS features:

* Online collaboration with one or many colleagues;
* View, download and print the Code Change Agenda;
* Online review of hearing testimony and voting on assembly floor motions following the Committee Action Hearing;
* View, download and print the Report of the Committee Action Hearing;
* Online creation, collaboration, and submittal of public comments to the Committee Action Hearing results;
* View, download and print the Public Comment Agenda; and
* Online review of Public Comment Hearing testimony and voting on proposed code changes/public comments following the Public Comment Hearing.

All ICC members are eligible to vote online on assembly floor motions. Only Governmental Member Voting Representatives (agencies, departments & units engaged in administration, formulation or enforcement of laws, regulations or ordinances relating to public health, safety and welfare) and Honorary Members can vote on proposed code changes/public comments. cdpACCESS allows you to participate in code development from a computer or tablet, when you cannot attend in person – and there’s nothing special to install, so it’s accessible from any internet connection.

ICC has extensively tested cdpACCESS on a wide variety of Windows and Apple computers and the iPad. cdpACCESS is designed for use on Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari and Chrome. Internet Explorer version 7 and earlier versions are not supported. Analysis of ICC website traffic has shown this will affect a very small percentage of users.

Support for cdpACCESS includes help by phone and email to answer questions, receive comments and suggestions, and report any system errors. The toll-free cdpACCESS hotline is 855-ICC-CDP-1 (422-2371) Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 7 PM Central; email can be sent to cdpACCESS@iccsafe.org. A schedule of free cdpACCESS webinars can be viewed at [www.iccsafe.org/cdpACCESS](http://www.iccsafe.org/cdpACCESS). To see answers to questions about cdpACCESS, go to [www.iccsafe.org/cdpACCESSQA](http://www.iccsafe.org/cdpACCESSQA).

The concept of online participation in ICC’s Code Development Process dates back to 2001 when off-site voting on code changes was used by the three model code organizations that later consolidated to become the Code Council.

Article by: Fulton Cochran – Chairman, ICC Fire Service Membership Council Governing Committee

Bio:

Fulton Cochran

Deputy Fire Marshal – Retired

Henderson, Nevada

Fulton has been involved in the fire service for over 35 years. He started as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Manitou Springs, Colorado. Wanting a career in the Fire Service he worked as a career firefighter and then moved into fire prevention. He was Fire Marshal in Breckenridge, Colorado and an active member of the Fire Marshals Association of Colorado prior to moving to Southern Nevada. For the past 20 years Fulton was with the City of Henderson, Nevada where he was the Deputy Fire Marshal – Engineering. During his tenure, the City of Henderson was the fastest growing city in the country for over 10 years. During this explosive growth Fulton managed the fire plan check team that reviewed the following:

* Master planned communities with over 10,000 homes
* Major infrastructure projects such as a 600 MGD water treatment plant
* Major commercial sites such as regional mall and large strip centers
* Regional distribution centers greater than 750,000 square feet with high piled storage
* Chemical plants with multiple hazards
* High-rise hotels and casinos
* High-rise Hospital and medical office complexes

Fulton has participated in code development starting with the legacy organization ICBO and attended his first code development hearing in 1985. Fulton has worked with the International Code Council (ICC) on numerous committees and councils. He was the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) representative on the Performance Code drafting committee. In 2007, he was appointed to the Fire Code Council and in 2010 he was elected as Chairman of this Council. When ICC reformulated the Councils in 2011, creating the current Fire Service Membership Council (FSMC), Fulton was again selected by the governing committee to be the Chairman of the Council, a position he continues to hold after being reelected most recently in Ft. Lauderdale during the 2014 Annual Business Meeting.

Fulton is currently a member of the ICC Codes and Standards Council which advises the ICC Board regarding the technical code committees and code development. Fulton was a member of the cdpACCESS steering committee charged with developing the framework of this program and recommending these actions to the ICC Board of Directors.

In 2013, Fulton was honored by ICC as the recipient of the fire service person of the year award. In 2014 Fulton co-authored the book “Significant Changes to the International Fire Code” 2015 edition.

