# 2022 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.


**Figure 1. FEMA Region 6**

## Why Track Codes?

- Represent the best evidence for disaster resistance
- Create best overall return on investment
- Comply with Technology Transfer Act
- Cornerstone of effective mitigation to reduce losses in future disasters
- Codes = better built buildings, better performance
- Hazard codes for seismic, high winds, water and fire enable uniformity, efficiencies, and predictable performance
- Recognize the disaster preparedness of communities when determining level of federal funding

## Purpose of Building Code Adoption Tracking

- Track the adoption rate of the latest consensus-based codes across the nation
- Track the results of adoption in improving disaster-resistant buildings in natural hazard areas
- 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 as required by legislation and/or FEMA policies such as the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 and the associated Federal Cost Share Reform Incentive

[1] Hazard-resistant codes mean the 2018 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.

## FEMA's Role Will Be Continuous

- Proposing building code changes to maintain consistency with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to incorporate best practices identified in post-disaster investigations.
- Defending against changes that weaken flood, wind, and seismic provisions.
- Contributing to requests for interpretations by International Code Council.
- Supporting the training of state, local, tribal and territorial officials.


**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):

### TEXAS

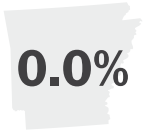

**LOWER RESISTANCE**

| | |
|---|---|
| IBC | State adopts an outdated International Building Code (IBC) (2012 edition) as a minimum code edition and applies it to municipalities only. State also gives municipalities broad discretion to modify the IBC. |
| IRC | State adopts an outdated International Residential Code (IRC) for municipalities (2012 edition) as a minimum code edition and applies it to municipalities only. State also gives jurisdictions broad discretion to modify the IRC. |

[2] Hazard-resistant codes mean the 2018 or later IBC and IRC, without weakening of any resilience provisions related to any of the five tracked hazards for which the jurisdiction is at high risk.

[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

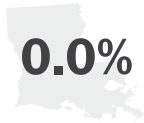



**LOWER RESISTANCE**

**IBC** State adopts an outdated IBC (2012 edition).

**IRC** State adopts an outdated IRC (2012 edition).

## LOUISIANA

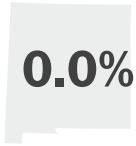



**LOWER RESISTANCE**

**IBC** State adopts the (outdated) 2015 IBC. State weakens flood resistance by removing ASCE 24-14 freeboard Requirements and Table 1-1, *Flood Design Class of Buildings and Structures*, from Sec. 1612.4.

**IRC** State adopts the (outdated) 2015 IRC. State weakens flood resistance by removing 1-foot freeboard requirements from A Zones and Coastal A Zones in R322.2.1, and from R322.3.2 for lowest horizontal structural member oriented perpendicular to the direction of wave approach for V Zones and Coastal A Zones.

## NEW MEXICO

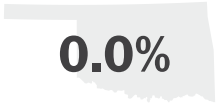



**LOWER RESISTANCE**

**IBC** State adopts the (outdated) 2015 IBC.
*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 (outdated) 2015 IRC.
*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).*

## OKLAHOMA




**LOWER RESISTANCE**

**IBC** State adopts the 2018 IBC. 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 the (outdated) 2015 IRC.