

# NEWS OHIO

July 2002

## **NAHB Withdraws from NFPA 5000 Building Code Development in Support of ICC**

On April 17, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) formally withdrew from development of the new NFPA 5000 Building Code. In a letter to NFPA President and CEO **George D. Miller**, NAHB questioned the benefit to public health and safety of developing a second set of national building codes to compete directly with the International Code Council's (ICC's) family of codes.

NAHB noted that its policy supports the concept of a single coordinated set of national model building codes that includes housing affordability as a major determinant in its development. Further, it expressed concern that the critical issue of housing affordability is being ignored in favor of property protection in the development of NFPA 5000.

For these reasons, NAHB resigned its membership from the NFPA Technical Committees responsible for development of NFPA 5000. This action is limited to NFPA 5000. NAHB plans to continue its current level of participation in the other NFPA codes and standards.

## **BOMA International Supports Adoption of the International Codes**

The Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA) recently announced that it supports the adoption of the *International Codes*, the only set of coordinated and integrated set of model building codes for the built environment, as a means of achieving more consistent and reasonable regulation of the commercial real estate industry.

In its announcement, BOMA noted that when the joint effort between the ICC and NFPA to develop the *International Fire Code* failed to materialize, both organizations began to again compete for adoption of their respective documents. As such, BOMA stated, "the nation faces the likelihood of a "hodge podge system of model codes, creating the need for numerous local and state amendments or interpretations, and

thus reducing the level of consistency that could be achieved by the use of one package of codes." BOMA concluded that since the *International Codes* were developed to be a seamless "family" of codes without many internal problems, BOMA members will be best served by a proven set of codes that are ready for adoption across the country: the *International Codes*.

BOMA has recommended to its members that they aggressively monitor state and local activities and become actively involved in any efforts to adopt new codes and support adoption of the *International Codes*. BOMA also is encouraging all its members to proactively work with their legislative and regulatory officials responsible for code adoption and express their desire for adoption of ICC's set of coordinated and integrated model codes.

## **Codes Forum**

Plan now to attend the Joint Conference of BOCA, SBCCI and ICBO in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 29 through October 4, 2002. The primary focus of the Conference is the weeklong code development activities

The Conference features an education program with 24 seminars presented by industry experts on Monday, September 30 and Tuesday, October 1 from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

For registration information, call (800) 214-421, ext. 202.

## **Recommended Reading**

To keep up with the activities and events of the ICC, code users and enforcers should read the monthly "ICC Newsletter," available on-line and in pdf format at [www.intlcode.org](http://www.intlcode.org). The newsletter also contains many interesting and useful articles about events related to the development and enforcement of the ICC family of codes.

In the June 2002 issue, there is an excellent article entitled, "Hand in Hand" written by **Shawn Kelly**, Assistant Fire Chief, and **Lynn Underwood**, Chief Building Official for Arlington, Virginia. This piece focuses on the cooperation for the enforcement of the

*International Fire Code (IFC) and the International Building Code (IBC).*

The article makes the point that the IFC and IBC are inextricably linked together. More importantly, the article outlines the importance of cooperation and the real world steps that can be taken to foster and insure cooperation between the fire service and building officials in enforcement of codes. This is a very timely subject which needs to be carefully and thoughtfully considered by Ohio's fire officials and building officials.

## **AFCIs Required**

The *National Electrical Code/NEC 2002*, which is the referenced standard for electrical work, design and installation in the *2002 Ohio Building Code*, requires arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) for 15- and 20-ampere outlets in dwelling unit bedrooms in new residential construction (refer to NEC 2002 Section 210.12).

The installation of AFCIs is expected to provide enhanced protection from fires that result from arcing and sparking.

Not to be confused with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which are designed to address shock hazards, AFCIs are designed to address fire hazards. The placement of GFCIs is required for all outlets near a water source such as laundry rooms, bathrooms and kitchens.

AFCIs will act as a first line of defense, since fuses and circuit breakers do not respond to early arcing and sparking conditions in home wiring. By the time a fuse or circuit breaker opens to defuse these conditions, a fire may have already started. AFCIs will defuse these conditions earlier.

## **Qualified Fire Inspectors Needed**

There have been a number of inquiries regarding the criteria a community should use in selecting a fire safety inspector. Persons who inspect for fire hazards in Ohio must receive training, as a minimum, to be a Certified Fire Inspector by the Ohio Department of Education.

But what else can be done by the community to assure they get the best person for the job? One step is require the candidate to pass the Fire Inspector I exam offered by the International Code Council and accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. The passing of this exam demonstrates knowledge of the code and provides certification as evidence of technical expertise.

A description of the Fire Inspector I category and details about how to become certified are fully explained in the *2002 Candidate Bulletin for the National Certification Program*. The following procedure for applicants should be followed in conjunction with the Bulletin, copies of which are available from BOCA

International:

1. Obtain access to the F1 exam documents listed in the Bulletin.
2. Use the International Code Campus ([www.icccampus.org](http://www.icccampus.org)) to obtain an on-line practice opportunity.
3. Register for testing either by phone or fax. The examination fee is \$140. In Ohio, test sites are located in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.
4. All who pass the exam will be sent a certificate to signify certification.

For further information, contact BOCA International at (800) 214-4321, ext. 334.

## **Certification Services Being Consolidated**

The ICC is in the process of consolidating the certification services offered by or on behalf of BOCA,® ICBO,® and SBCCI.® ICC plans to implement a single program under the auspices of the ICC to replace the testing and certification services that are currently offered separately by ICC and its statutory members.

The goal of the ICC Certification Program is to ensure public health and safety through a system that measures code knowledge and technical proficiency within the profession, and to facilitate reciprocity and portability of credentials throughout the world.

The single program will build on ICC's Certified Building Officials (CBO) certification, which is a credential for demonstrating an individual's expertise in administering a building department, thereby protecting the public by regulating construction. The program will provide national and international recognition by offering one source for eligibility, testing and certification maintenance, as the statutory members' CBO programs have done for decades.

## **New Video to Debut Summer 2002**

The fifth video in the Residential Inspection series, "Decay and Wall Framing Inspection," is scheduled for release in early summer. The video addresses the inspection of structures for protection against potential water and termite damage. It also focuses on performing wall framing inspections.

Building Commissioner **Tom Bartnik**, Frankfort, Illinois, continues as host of the series. His real-world experience and easy-to-follow style teaches effective inspection techniques and establishes a list for critical inspection tasks.

Bartnik discusses areas close to the ground and wood structural members that are exposed to moisture and high humidity. He stresses checking for termite infestation possibilities and preventions. The use of pressure-treated wood in these areas is critical and

Bartnik demonstrates how to measure actual clearances for sill plates and sleepers, crawlspaces, wood siding and any wall framing members.

In the video, Bartnik also covers compliance requirements for bearing walls, bored holes, wall headers, wall bracing, joist or truss placement relative to studs, top plates, double studs, solid blocking, cripple walls, and seismic design categories.

### **Adopt the IFC, Get a FIG**

A copy of the *Fire Inspector Guidebook* (FIG) is being sent to every community that adopts the 2000 *International Fire Code* (IFC) beginning now through January 1, 2003. As explained in the last BOCA-Ohio, the new FIG provides a quick cross reference as to how the other Ohio codes (building, mechanical and plumbing) relate to the 2000 IFC. Formal code interpretations concerning fire code enforcement and hazardous material classifications are also included. The FIG is just one of the support documents to the 2000 IFC that will make the Ohio Certified Fire Inspector's job easier.

To get a copy of the FIG, simply send your request along with a copy of the community's ordinance that specifically adopts the 2000 IFC to BOCA Mideast Regional Office, 1245 Sunbury Road, Suite 100, Westerville, OH 43081. For information on adoption of the IFC, please call **Bruce Larcomb** at (800) 323-1103, option #4.

### **Exam Series Now Complete**

The entire series of Residential Inspector, Commercial Inspector and Plans Examiner examinations is complete. The Residential Inspector examinations have been available since January 2, 2002. The Commercial Inspector series became available June 1, 2002, and the Plans Examiner series will become available on October 1, 2002.

### **In-House Accessibility Training**

Audio Virtual Seminars allow you and your staff to receive training via a speaker phone in your office. These popular seminars include handouts and provide both Continuing Education Units and AIA Learning Units. Question-and-answer periods at the conclusion of each session are included for participants. Upcoming Audio Virtual Seminars on accessibility topics include Type A and Type B Dwellings, September 12, (Code: BOC6827-0) and Assembly Seatings December 11, (Code: BOC6828-0).

One, low per-session registration fee of \$175 allows for an unlimited number of participants and provides maximum return on your training dollars. To register, call (800) 775-7654. Identify the seminar of your choice,

including the code. More information is available at [www.bocai.org/audio.asp](http://www.bocai.org/audio.asp), or to request a brochure, call (800) 214-4321, ext 341.

### **Spring Hearings Webcast Provides Valuable Lesson for Ohio Architecture Students**

Architecture students at Columbus (Ohio) State Community College learned first hand about the code change process as they watched the webcast of the ICC Spring Hearings from Pittsburgh.

BOCA Mideast Regional Office Manager **Bruce Larcomb, P.E.**, was invited as a guest speaker for the Architecture Building Construction Standards class and used the ICC hearings as part of his presentation.

"The students appeared to appreciate the fact that the rules and concepts they were studying came from an open and comprehensive process," Larcomb noted. "One student indicated that it increased his faith in and understanding of the code requirements."

The course uses the *Ohio Building Code*, based on the 2000 *International Building Code*, as a textbook. The *Ohio Building Code* also will be used in a design project for the course.

"The instructor for the class, **Susan V. Plaisted, R.A.**, encouraged the activity and indicated she was impressed with the expertise of the Fire Code Change Committee, along with the quality of the input and comments from participants on the floor," Larcomb said.

### **ICC Code Development Webcast Hearings**

The Code Development Hearings at the Codes Forum 2002 on October 3-4 in Fort Worth, Texas, will be broadcast on the web. Information about equipment requirements and hearing schedule will be available on the BOCA web site at [www.bocai.org](http://www.bocai.org) and the ICC web site at [www.intlcode.org](http://www.intlcode.org) about a month in advance of the hearings.

### **Fire Stop Seminar**

A Fire Stop Seminar sponsored by American Subcontractors Association Central Ohio Chapter will be held on September 10, 2002, at the Easton Hilton from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Discussions will include current issues in firestopping, and the role of building inspectors. Panel discussions will include a general contractor, drywall subcontractor, electrical contractor, owner, architect, code official, and member of the International Firestop Council. Cost for the seminar is \$50 for seminar and reception, \$25 for government staff. For information or to register, contact **Linda Jones** at (614) 469-1973.

## **2000 IPC Commentary**

The 2000 *International Plumbing Code Commentary* is now available for delivery. The 2000 IPC Commentary is a reliable, comprehensive, easy-to-use reference that focuses on the meaning and implications of the 2000 *International Plumbing Code*. The 2000 IPC is the model code upon which the 2002 *Ohio Plumbing Code* is based.

The IPC Commentary emphasizes prescriptive and performance-related provisions to address significant changes in the plumbing industry, manufacturing technology and new approaches to the design and installation of plumbing systems.

Cost is \$49 for members, \$61 list price. For credit card orders, call (800) 214-4321, ext. 371. BOCA members may fax orders to (800) 214-7167.

## **Upcoming BOCA Seminars**

The following is a list of upcoming BOCA seminars. If you would like to register for a seminar or if you would like additional information, contact BOCA's Professional Development Services at (800) 214-4321, ext. 329.

DATE	SEMINAR TITLE	LOCATION
7/23/02	Architects Guide to the 2000 International Building Code	Pittsburgh, PA
7/31/02	Special Uses and Mixed Occupancies 2000	Grand Rapids, MI
9/3-4/02	Structural Steel Inspection — Steel-framed Buildings	Columbus, OH
8/6-8/02	Performing 2000 Int'l. Residential Code Building Inspections	Indianapolis, IN
8/14/02	Overview of the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code	Houston, TX
8/14-15/02	Residential Electrical Principles and Code Applications	Lexington, KY

For detailed information concerning OBBS continuing education recognition for BOCA seminars, access BOCA's Fax-On-Demand at (800) 214-4321 and request document 6560.

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