

# WHAT IS A BUILDING CODE?

INTRODUCTION TO LIFE SAFETY & BUILDING CODE SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | FEBRUARY 2023

## SUMMARY

A **building code** is a published document that establishes requirement for constructing buildings.

- Building codes are developed and adapted constantly. The biggest changes to building code occur following novel events that reshape our understanding of safety in built environments.
- Today, two major code and standard development organizations are the International Code Council (ICC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



**Popular Codes Developed by the International Code Council**  
(International Building Code, International Residential Code, and the International Fire Code)

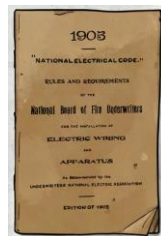


**Codes & Standards Developed by the National Fire Protection Association**  
(NFPA 1, the Fire Code, NFPA 101, the Life Safety Code, and NFPA 5000, the Building Construction and Safety Code)



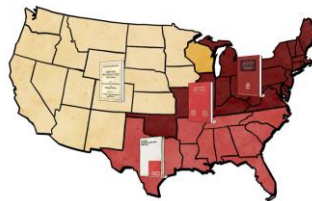
### Historical Fires

(Codes have long been shaped by major historical fire events, dating back to antiquity)



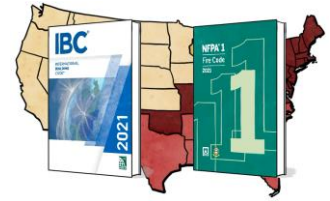
### 1905 National Electrical Code

(first major code written by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, who later became NFPA)



### Regional Building Codes in US

(The Uniform Building Code, Building Officials and Code Administrators, BOCA, and Southern Building Code)



### Centralized Model Code

(In 1994, the regional code developers combined to create the International Code Council and develop the IBC, and Uniform Fire Code adapted to NFPA 1)

## VIDEO LINK

[www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-a-building-code](http://www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-a-building-code)

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