



Codes and Standards

What You Should Know

SEPT 2024

**News from the
International
Code Council**

**What's up
with DOE and
EPA?**

**State
Happenings
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2027 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Scope and Intent draft

The International Code Council (ICC) recently published the draft Scope and Intent to the 2027 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). [2027-IECC-Scope-and-Intent-Draft-ICC-BOD-Approved-240712.pdf \(iccsafe.org\)](#) There are some beneficial clarifications in this draft Scope and Intent that provide helpful language for natural gas customers. In both the Residential and the Commercial Intent, the following statement is provided: “The code will provide for the safe and efficient use of energy sources and is not intended to eliminate any fuel type.”

Further, the Commentary and Direction from the Board of Directors in both the Residential and Commercial commentaries state:

- “Provisions of the code shall not promote or penalize specific types of equipment or fuel sources.”
- “Provisions that provide for greenhouse gas reductions or resilience benefits (e.g., electric vehicles, readiness, demand response, and onsite or off-site energy storage or renewable energy) as well as provisions to achieve zero energy buildings shall only be included either in an optional appendix/appendix or as part of a compliance path (e.g., credits system, simulated performance) where compliance is still possible without using or promoting such measures (e.g., through strictly energy efficiency measures)”

AGA Comments

AGA provided comments August 19th asserting the importance of decarbonization and asserting the primacy of energy efficiency in the IECC. AGA’s comments reflect the inclusion of greenhouse gas reduction resources which achieve additional energy efficiency and are fuel neutral in non-mandatory appendices. Further, AGA comments seek a fully transparent code development process. [AGA Files Comments on 2027 IECC Draft Scope and Intent - American Gas Association](#)

Engagement in Code Development

Engagement in code development by a broad array of natural gas users remains important to ensure access to a diverse energy supply. Though the application period for residential and commercial IECC consensus committees concluded August 19th, opportunities for participation on IECC subcommittees will open soon.

Development of the 2027 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)

The ICC second Committee Action Code Hearings will be held in Long Beach California from October 23 – 31. Final actions on the proposed changes to the IFGC will be heard on Monday, October 28, 2024. Several public comments have been filed that the committee will consider. Of particular interest are the ones on hydrogen admixtures. At the first code action hearings in April, the committee disapproved several proposed hydrogen amendments but asked that the proponents file public comments to address some of the concerns of the committee. The proposals can be found at <https://www.iccsafe.org/events/conference/hearings-ac/>. Click on IFGC for the fuel gas proposals. Posting of the results will be sometime in December.

Development of the 2027 National Fuel Gas Code NFPA 54

The first meeting of the NFPA 54 technical committee will meet September 17-19 in Charlotte North Carolina. The primary purpose of this meeting is to review the NFPA 54 Public Inputs and develop proposed revisions recommended by the committee. You can view the public inputs and other information about the next edition at: <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-54-standard-development/54>. There are several representatives from the natural gas industry serving on the committee. More information will be available after this first meeting.

What's up with EPA?

EPA Urges Those Affected by Hurricane Beryl to Avoid Indoor Air Dangers, Use Generators Safely | US EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reminds communities affected by Hurricane Beryl to be aware of potential safety concerns in homes and other buildings. Most importantly, always operate portable generators according to the instructions and always run them outside, far away from buildings. Running a portable generator inside or too close to your home can lead to injury or death from carbon monoxide poisoning.

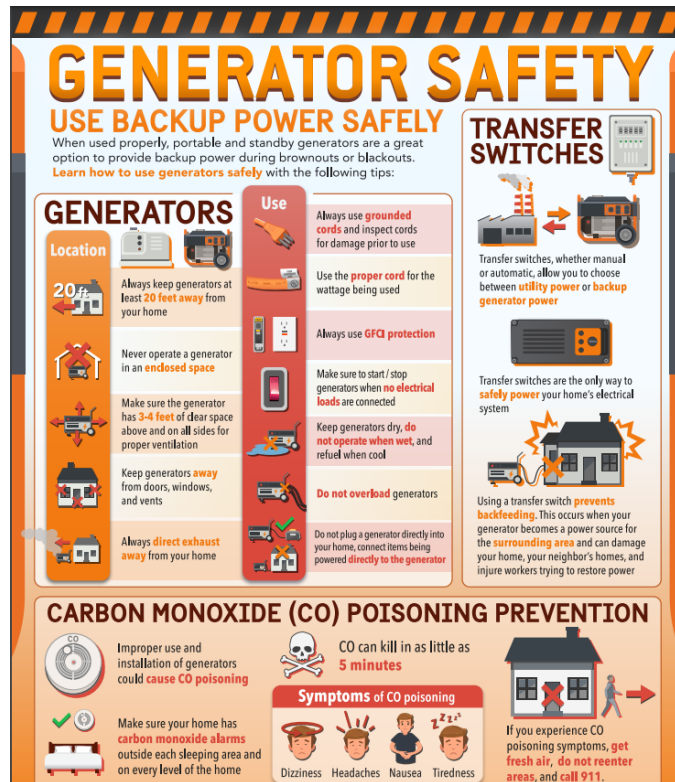
Indoor air quality can be impacted by many conditions that commonly occur following a hurricane. Please be aware of these hazards if your home, school, or business sustains damage from Hurricane Beryl. As always, please heed instructions from local authorities

on when it is safe to return to an evacuated area, and do not enter a damaged building unless it is safe to do so.

Use portable generators safely

Ensure portable generators are set up outside, away from open doors and windows. Never use a portable generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide (CO) can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person

depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.



GENERATOR SAFETY
USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY
 When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts. Learn how to use generators safely with the following tips:

GENERATORS

Location

- Always keep generators at least **20 feet** away from your home
- Never operate a generator in an **enclosed space**
- Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet** of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation
- Keep generators **away** from doors, windows, and vents
- Always **direct exhaust** away from your home

Use

- Always use **grounded** cords and inspect cords for damage prior to use
- Use the **proper cord** for the wattage being used
- Always use **GFCI** protection
- Make sure to start / stop generators when **no electrical loads** are connected
- Keep generators **dry**, **do not operate when wet**, and refuel when cool
- Do not overload** generators
- Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered **directly to the generator**

TRANSFER SWITCHES

Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, allow you to choose between **utility power** or **backup generator power**

Transfer switches are the only way to **safely power** your home's electrical system

Using a transfer switch **prevents backfeeding**. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the **surrounding area** and can damage your home, your neighbor's homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION

Improper use and installation of generators could **cause CO poisoning**

CO can kill in as little as **5 minutes**

Symptoms of CO poisoning

- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Tiredness

Make sure your home has **carbon monoxide alarms** outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home

If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, **get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911**

Avoid contact with building debris

Debris from damaged homes and buildings can contain hazardous substances, especially in older buildings. Elevated concentrations of

airborne asbestos can occur if asbestos-containing materials present in the home are disturbed. Airborne asbestos can cause lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest and abdominal linings. Lead is a highly toxic metal that produces a range of adverse health effects, particularly in young children. Disturbance or removal of materials containing lead-based paint can result in an elevated concentration of lead dust in the air. When entering a storm-damaged building, at a minimum, wear an N-95 respirator mask, goggles and protective gloves.

Mold can form after floods

Flood water can make the air in your home unhealthy, because when things remain wet for more than two days, they usually get moldy. Inhaling mold can cause adverse health effects, including allergic reactions. Mold also can damage materials in your home. When entering a flood-damaged building, at a minimum, wear an N-95 respirator mask, goggles and protective gloves.

Durant, J. and Robledo, J. (2024) *EPA Urges Those Affected by Hurricane Beryl to Avoid Indoor Air Dangers, Use Generators Safely* [Preprint]. doi: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-urges-those-affected-hurricane-beryl-avoid-indoor-air-dangers-use-generators>

Update on Zero Emissions Building Definition

In previous newsletters some information was provided concerning the DOE development of a “National Definition” for zero emissions buildings. The draft was published in January. The industry, through AGA, filed comments in February. If you recall, the major concern to the natural gas industry was the requirement that the structure be “Free of on-site emissions from energy use”. This will obviously have an extreme negative impact on the use of natural gas appliances. On June 6, 2024, DOE announced its definition for zero emission buildings and, despite the AGA comments that were filed, retained the no on-site emissions requirement. You can read the DOE press release and definition at: [DOE Announces National Definition of a Zero Emissions Building | Department of Energy](#). AGA is currently contemplating the next steps in this issue.

Other News



The “Chevron deference” was coined a landmark case in 1984, *Chevron USA, Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.* This case provided guidance that the court should defer to the agency’s answer or interpretation as long as the agency’s answer was not unreasonable, and Congress had not spoken on the precise issue.

In June of 2024 the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Chevron Doctrine. In *Loper Bright Enterprises V Raimondo*. Instead of deferring to the agencies on how to interpret ambiguous language in laws pertaining to their work, federal judges now have the power to decide what a law means. While it may bring about substantial changes and open new opportunities and potential benefits for the industry, it also introduces a significant level of increased legal uncertainty. Without the Chevron deference, courts will not defer to agencies like the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) when interpreting complex regulations. For more information, please visit <https://southerngas.org/2024/06/breaking-news-overturned-chevron-deference/>

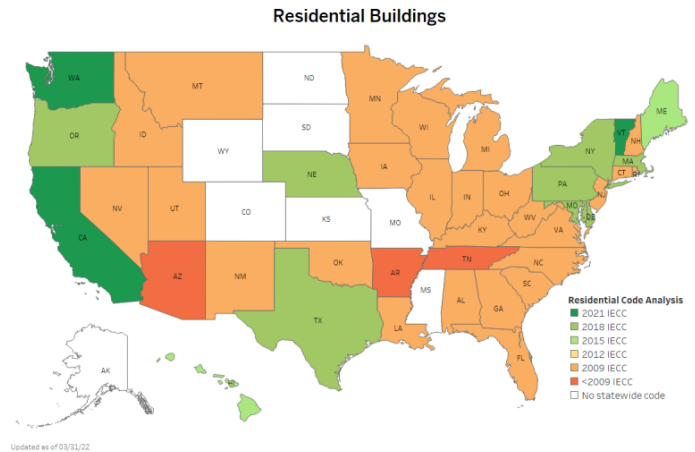
State Happenings

Illinois

Illinois Stretch Energy Code

Illinois Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) passed the stretch energy code in their September 10th meeting. The stretch code becomes effective on January 1st. It is optional for municipalities to adopt and is required for state-funded buildings.

[Illinois Stretch Energy Code \(20 ILCS 3125/55\)](#)



SCAN ME



IECC 2027 Call for Committees

Contact Tom Schultz with any questions

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