



Code Officials of Arkansas

NEWSLETTER

FALL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 13TH-
18TH, 2026

Location: Mount Magazine,
Paris Arkansas.

ARKANSAS STATE CODE
ADOPTION PANEL

Arkansas State Fire Marshal's
Office has officially launched its
committee to review and adopt
the 2024 IFC, IBC, and IRC

INTERNATIONAL CODE
COUNCIL EXPO'S

Official 2026 Details of ICC
Annual Conference & Expo



FALL CONFERENCE:

The training event will be held September 13th-18th, 2026, at Mount Magazine. Attendees can earn continued education units in both electrical and plumbing for the state.

The conference agenda and registration will be open on May 25th, 2026. Please note that mechanical training will not be required for CEUs until 2027.

Arkansas State Code Adoption

This is a major step in keeping Arkansas aligned with national safety and construction standards. Michael Archdeacon is serving on the committee, representing Arkansas code officials in the review and amendment process.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE 2024 I-CODES?

THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL CODES COME WITH MAJOR FORMATTING AND USABILITY CHANGES WHICH INCLUDE:

Streamlined layout and modernized fonts

QR codes replacing marginal marking to identify technical revisions

Blue text for new language and clear indicators for deletions and relocations

Enhanced digital integration through ICC Digital Codes Premium

A refresher for new officials: Arkansas adopts the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code, which includes:

- Volume I - Fire Code
- Volume II - Building Code
- Volume III - Residential Code

All are based on the IFC, IBC, and IRC with Arkansas - specific amendments.

The code applies **STATEWIDE**, including rural and unincorporated areas.

SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL CHANGES IN THE 2024 IBC

- Revised provisions for sprinkler rise design in high-rise buildings
- Updated requirements for stairway door operation and emergency power connections
- New clarify on flammable decorative materials, alarm pre-signal rules, and hazardous materials thresholds.
- Editorial restructuring of fire and smoke protection features for easier interpretation
- Tornado Load Provisions: Includes tornado loading requirements, a major development for states like Arkansas that sit in high-risk regions. These provisions affect structural design, shelter requirements and risk category assignments.

Energy Efficiency & Arkansas Energy Code

The Arkansas Energy Code that is adopted by the Arkansas continues to push for improved building efficiency statewide

SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL CHANGES IN THE 2024 IRC

- Section R104 (Duties and Powers of the Building Official) completely rewritten. The entire section was replaced, modernizing how alternate materials, designs, and methods are evaluated. One notable addition: R104.2.1 allows a building official to require listings or product information at cost to the applicant.
- Nosing's (R318.7.5.3): The 3/8-inch uniformity rule for nosing projections now applies within each flight, not across the entire stairway.
- Landings (R318.7.6): New exceptions include:
 - Interior stairways may have the top landing on the opposite side of a door.
 - In garages, the top landing may be up to 7/8 inches below the door threshold.
 - Exterior stairways with ≤2 risers do not require a top landing.
 - Exterior stairs with ≤3 risers serving decks/porches must have a 36-inch minimum bottom landing width.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2026 NOW UNDERWAY (MAY 1ST-31ST)

Throughout May, Communities across the country highlight the importance of modern building codes, safe construction practices, and the work of code officials. ICC encourages every jurisdiction to adopt a Building Safety Month Resolution and submit it for national recognition.

Reminder:

ICC requests all jurisdictions to submit their 2026 Building Safety Month Resolution by following this layout!

- Adopt a Building Safety Month Resolution through their governing body.
- Send a copy of the signed resolution to ICC for national recognition.
- Share photos, proclamation, and events to be featured on ICC's website and social channels.

This is a great call-to-action for Arkansas jurisdictions, especially with the 2024 IFC, IBC, IRC adoption committees now active.

If your city or county has adopted its resolution, please send a copy to me as soon as possible.

Chapter 3 was **fully reorganized** to group similar topics together for clarity:

- Structural and fire-resistance provisions first
- Fire/CO detection and sprinkler provisions next
- Room configuration requirements
- Means of egress and accessibility
- Indoor environment
- Solar and on-site energy systems This is a major usability improvement for inspectors and designers.

ICC Conference & Expo - Dates, locations and Why it Matters!

The ICC Annual Conference is where national code discussions happen, including committee hearings, education sessions, and networking with code professionals across the county.

Event Date Annual Conference:
October 18th - 21st, 2026

Location: Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center Nashville, Tennessee

Registration Opens Spring 2026

What does this Conference Cover?

- National code development discussions
- Education sessions for building, fire, and residential officials
- Expo showcasing new technologies and safety solutions
- Networking with code professionals from across the county

ELECTRICAL HOT TOPIC

Water Heater Disconnects (Article 422)

Article 422 of the NEC covers appliances, including water heaters, and Part III addresses disconnecting means. For many appliances, a unit switch can serve as the disconnect, but only in specific locations and only when it complies with 422.34 or 424.19(C) for heating equipment. For multifamily dwellings, where a separate disconnect is required, it must be located either within the individual dwelling unit or on the same floor as the unit.

A water heater is only permitted to be cord-and-plug connected if:

- The manufacturer specifically lists and labels the water heater for cord-and-plug connection, and
- The installation complies with the applicable appliance and disconnecting means provisions.

For appliances, Article 422.33(A) allows an accessible attachment plug and receptacle to serve as the disconnecting means for cord-and-plug-connected equipment. However, most water heaters are not designed or listed for cord-and-plug connection due to their power demand and safety considerations. If the water heater is not explicitly listed by the manufacturer for cord-and-plug connection and does not fall within the permitted ratings, it must be hard-wired and provided with a dedicated, properly located disconnecting means.

In recent inspections, I have encountered water heaters installed with cord-and-plug connections. When these installations are failed during change-outs or new construction, there has often been pushback from plumbers who report that similar installations are being approved in other jurisdictions. It is important to emphasize that a cord-and-plug connection is only acceptable when the water heater is specifically identified and listed by the manufacturer for that type of connection, regardless of whether a receptacle is conveniently located near the appliance. If the listing does not permit cord-and-plug connection, the installation must be corrected to a hard-wired configuration with an appropriate disconnect.



Proclamation

Building Safety Month — May 2026

Whereas our (City, Town, County, State) is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and essential role our homes, buildings and infrastructure play, both in everyday life and when disasters strike, and;

Whereas our confidence in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

Whereas these guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council (ICC), a nonprofit that brings together local, state, territorial, tribal and federal officials who are experts in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes and standards to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work and play, and;

Whereas these modern building codes and standards include safeguards to protect the public from hazards such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquakes, and;

Whereas Building Safety Month is sponsored by ICC to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown protectors of public safety—our code officials—who assure us of safe, sustainable and affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity, and;

Whereas “Built to Last” the theme for Building Safety Month 2026, encourages us all to get involved and raise awareness about building safety on a personal, local and global scale, and;

Whereas each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal building safety and fire prevention departments, in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, (Mayor, Supervisor, Commissioner, Governor) of _____, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join us as we participate in Building Safety Month activities.

Signature

How to Become a UL IQ (Product IQ) Member

UL IQ — now called **UL Product IQ** — is UL's online platform for accessing trusted UL certification data. If you want to become a member, you can register for free and log in to view and search UL safety certification information.

1. Go to the UL Product IQ registration page

Visit the official UL Product IQ site and click **Register for Free** [Prospector by UL](#).

2. Create your account

- Provide your personal or company details (name, email, password).
- You can choose to register as an individual or a business.
- The free account gives you access to the same UL certification data as the old iQ databases, but with a modern, mobile-friendly interface [Prospector by UL](#).

3. Log in to your account

Once registered, log in to start using the platform. You'll have access to:

- **Trusted UL data** on products, components, and systems.
- **Advanced search** tools, including guided keyword search and search refinement.
- **Personalized dashboard** with saved searches and tagging (optional paid features).
- **Letters of compliance** for UL-certified products (available with paid subscription) [Prospector by UL](#).

4. Optional paid subscription

If you want enhanced features like saved searches, tagging, and confirmation letters, you can upgrade to a paid plan [Prospector by UL](#).

5. Accessing certification data

- You can search for product validity, view compliance details, and generate compliance letters.
- If you bookmarked old IQ database URLs, they will redirect to the Product IQ site if you have an active account [Prospector by UL](#).

Tip: If you need help, UL's Customer Experience Center can assist via phone (1-877-854-3577) or email (CEC@ul.com) [Prospector by UL](#).

In short, **register for free at the UL Product IQ site, log in, and start exploring UL certification data** — with optional paid upgrades for extra tools. [UL Solutions](#)

Deck Code: <https://awc.org/resources/?topic=decks>

Message from TEKConnectGov

TEKConnectGov specializes in streamlining operations for cities through our integrated software modules. Our platform helps municipal teams improve efficiency (in the field and in office), enhance citizen services, and simplify day-to-day tasks for Permitting, Inspection, Code Enforcement, and Administrative staff.

TEKConnectGov is an Arkansas-based team that builds everything in-house—no outsourcing, no runaround. What makes our approach unique is that we partnered with city officials to build every module, so the software is designed by the people who actually use it. This means it's built for real-world municipal workflows and adapts to your department's ever-changing needs. When you need support or customizations, you're talking directly to the people who built your software, which means responsive, reliable help when you need it most. And because TEKConnectGov is not controlled by outside investors, we can offer world-class software at budgets that make sense for smaller cities.

Sponsorships:

