

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE UPCOMING 2012 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

IBC 501.2 – The Fire Official is now allowed to require additional locations for building ID and the numbers must be maintained.

IBC 505.2.2 – Mezzanine egress is now required per Chapter 10 with no special provisions allowed.

IBC 1011.2 – Low level exit signs for Group R-1 occupancies are back. A provision in the Uniform Building Code since the 1991 edition, this requirement was based on numerous hotel loss of life fires, including the MGM Grand fire in Las Vegas in 1980 where the corridor system becomes obscured by smoke. These are also thought to be useful for firefighters to gain egress from the fire floor.

IFC 105.7.5 and 105.13 – Two new construction permits were added to address the installation and modification of emergency responder radio systems and solar photovoltaic systems to coordinate with Sections 510 and 611.5 changes.

IFC 316.4 – Obstructions on roofs criteria developed so emergency responders are not damaged by their presence. Applies to roofs with slope of 30 degrees or less.

Means of identification, a barrier or some other form of obstruction must be provided when a guy wire, cable or rope is less than 7 feet above roof level

IFC 503.4.1 – Traffic calming devices- Speed bumps on residential streets and other fire access roads must be approved by the fire code official.

Studies show does not impact law enforcement response because of the vehicle size, but response times for fire and emergency services are increased by 2 to 10 seconds, depending on vehicle type and speed bump design.

IFC 604.5 – 604.5.2.1 - New sections mandating testing of emergency lighting battery unit equipment monthly for activation and annually for the 90-minute duration of power test.

IFC 605.11 – 605.11.4 – New section on solar photovoltaic power systems to correlate with IBC and NFPA 70 (National Electrical Code Article 690 to identify disconnects, locate conductors to reduce tripping hazards, and provide paths for firefighter movement on the roof.

IFC 903.2.4, 7 and 9 – Clarification for 2009 IBC Code Change requiring sprinklers in Group M furniture stores due to the fire in the Sofa Super Store in Charleston, SC that killed 9 firefighters. Now sprinklers are required where upholstered furniture and mattresses are manufactured (F), stored (S) or displayed (M).

Proposed Local amendments for consideration

- Definition for Single Room Occupancies
- Use of the IPC as an acceptable alternative for UPC
- Allowable increase for distance from gangplank to marina fueling dock
- Decrease thresholds for sprinkler requirement in commercial buildings from 7500 sq ft to 5000 sq ft
- Require all new single family homes to install residential sprinkler systems