

**The Code Official as**

**The First Preventer**

# The First Building Code - Hammurabi

- If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.



# The First Building Code - Hammurabi

- If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
- If it kills the son of the owner, the son of that builder shall be put to death.



# The First Building Code - Hammurabi

- If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
- If it kills the son of the owner, the son of that builder shall be put to death.
- Others



# The Great Chicago Fire, October 8, 1871

- *Late one night, Mrs. O'Leary lit a lantern in the shed.*



# The Great Chicago Fire, October 8, 1871

- *Late one night, Mrs. O'Leary lit a lantern in the shed.*
- *Her cow kicked it over, starting the fire that devastated Chicago*



# The Great Chicago Fire, October 8, 1871

- *Late one night, Mrs. O'Leary lit a lantern in the shed.*
- *Her cow kicked it over, starting the fire that devastated Chicago*
- *The Aftermath seen here is the rush to live, as people escaped across the river over Randolph Street Bridge*



# The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904

- It destroyed a major part of central Baltimore, including over 1,500 buildings covering an area of some 140 acres.



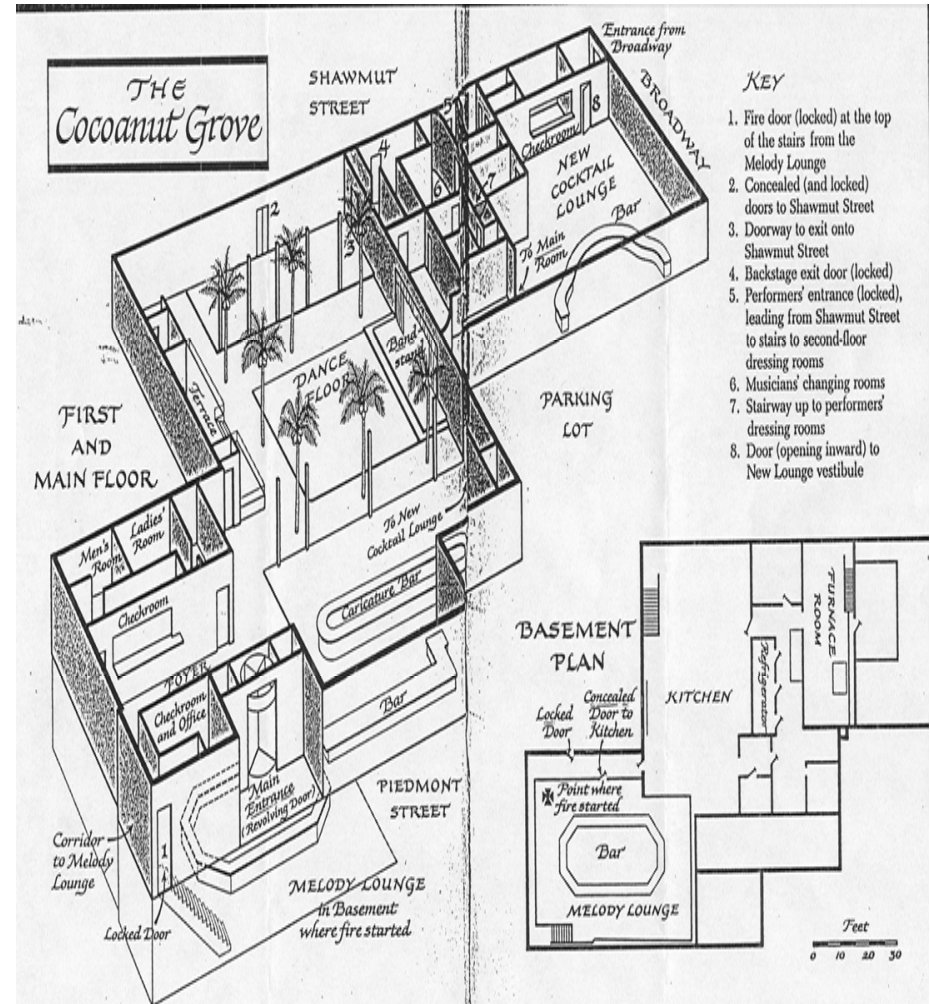
# The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904

- It destroyed a major part of central Baltimore, including over 1,500 buildings covering an area of some 140 acres.
- One reason for the fire's duration was the lack of national standards



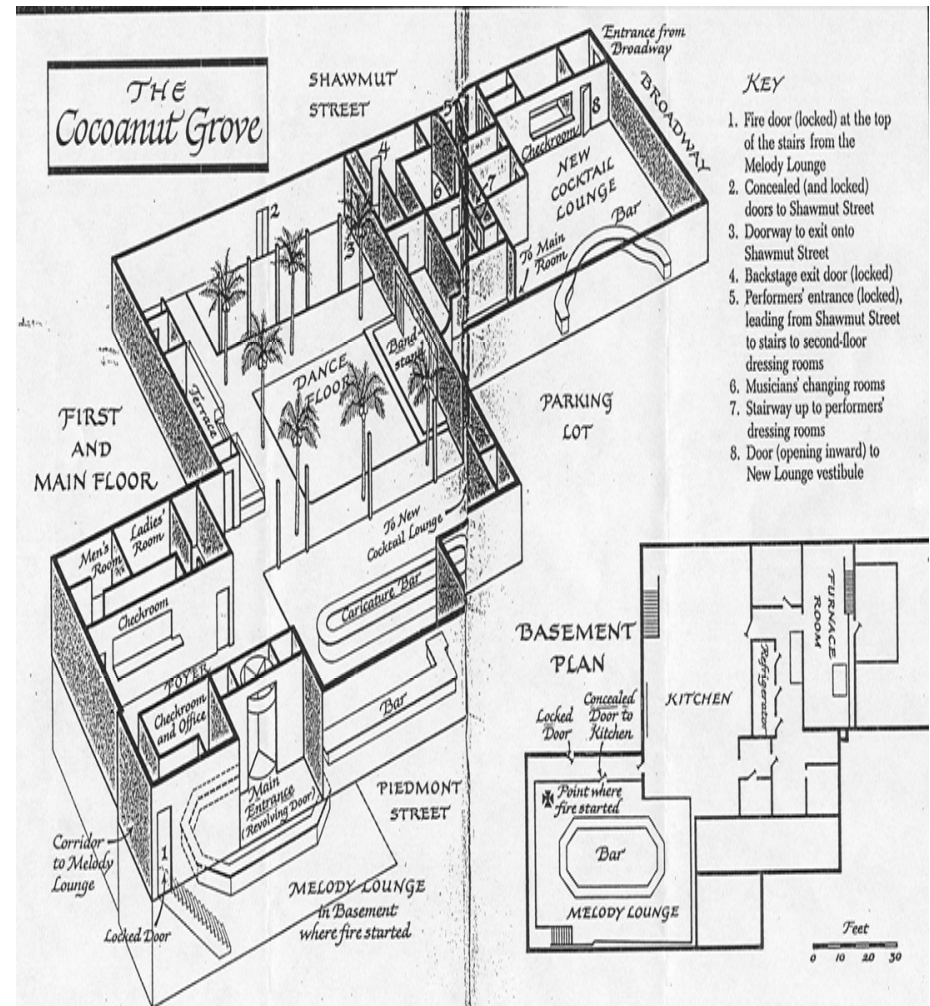
# Code Development History

- Coconut Grove
- November 28, 1942



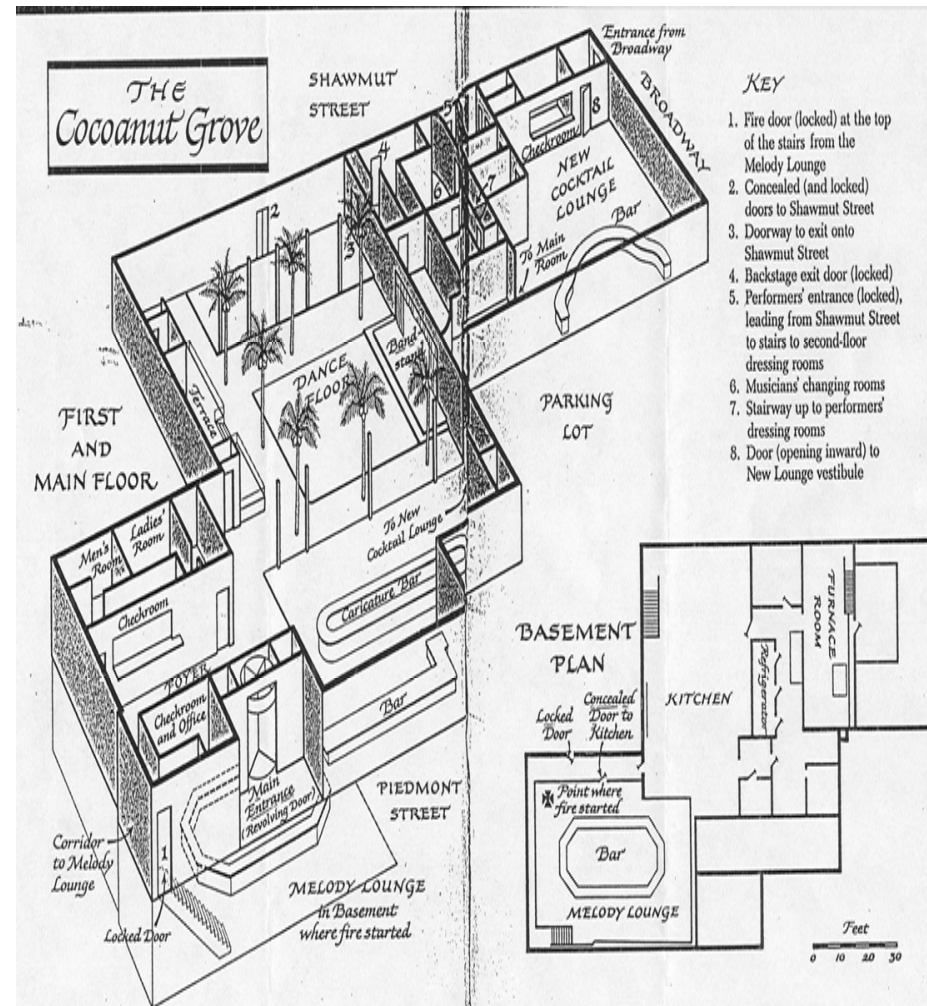
# Code Development History

- Coconut Grove
- November 28, 1942
- 492 people died trying to exit the building through doors that swung inward or were hidden, could not get out and died of Smoke inhalation



# Code Development History

- Coconut Grove
- November 28, 1942
- 492 people died trying to exit the building through doors that swung inward or were hidden, could not get out and died of Smoke inhalation
- Many code provisions resulted.



# The Earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010

# The Earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010

- A magnitude of 7.0 on the scale

# The Earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010

- A magnitude of 7.0 on the scale
- Of all the buildings built there they were severely damaged, including the Presidential Palace.

# The Earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010

- A magnitude of 7.0 on the scale
- Of all the buildings built there they were severely damaged, including the Presidential Palace.
- What is the one building that sustained only minimal damage

# The Earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010

- A magnitude of 7.0 on the scale
- Of all the buildings built there they were severely damaged, including the Presidential Palace.
- What is the one building that sustained only minimal damage
- The US Embassy

# The Earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010

- Why?

# The Earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010

- Why?
- Because it was built to National Standards and Codes developed and enforced in the United States

# History of the Codes

## 3 Original Code Groups

- ***BOCA National Building Code*** by the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA)
- ***Uniform Building Code (UBC)*** by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO)
- ***Standard Building Code (SBC)*** by the Southern Building Code Congress Int'l (SBCCI)

# History of the Codes

- ***BOCA National Building Code*** by the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA)
- ***Uniform Building Code (UBC)*** by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO)
- ***Standard Building Code (SBC)*** by the Southern Building Code Congress Int'l (SBCCI)
- **All merged to become the ICC (International Code Council) Model Codes in 2000**



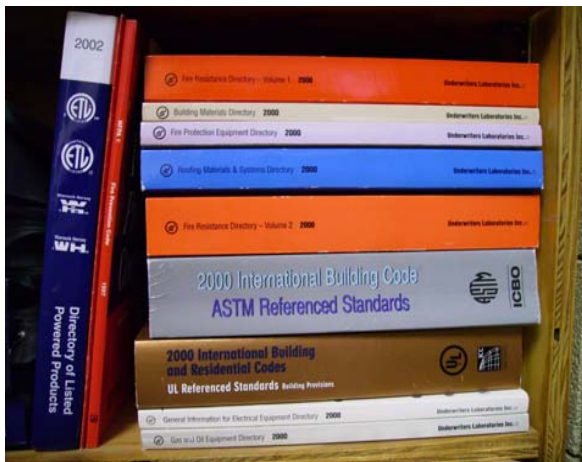
# ICC Mission Statement

To promulgate a comprehensive and compatible regulatory system for the built environment, through consistent performance-based regulations **that are effective, efficient and meet government, industry and public needs.**

# ICC Family of Codes Includes:

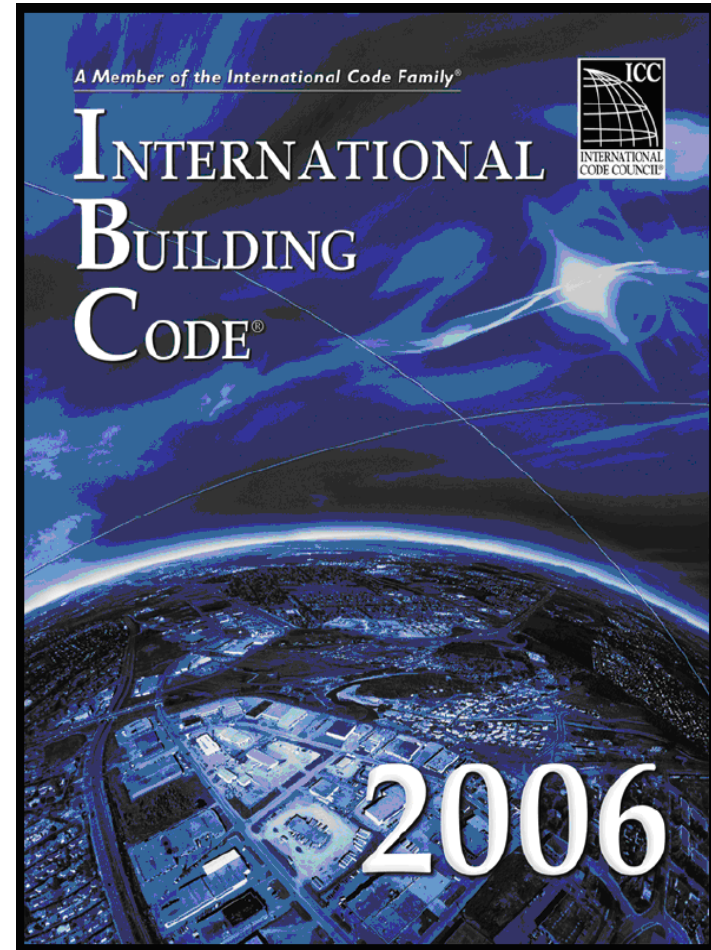


- Building IBC / IRC
- Fire
- Mechanical
- State Plumbing
- Fuel Gas
- Energy Efficiency
- Housing and Property Maintenance
- Green Building
- Referenced Standards



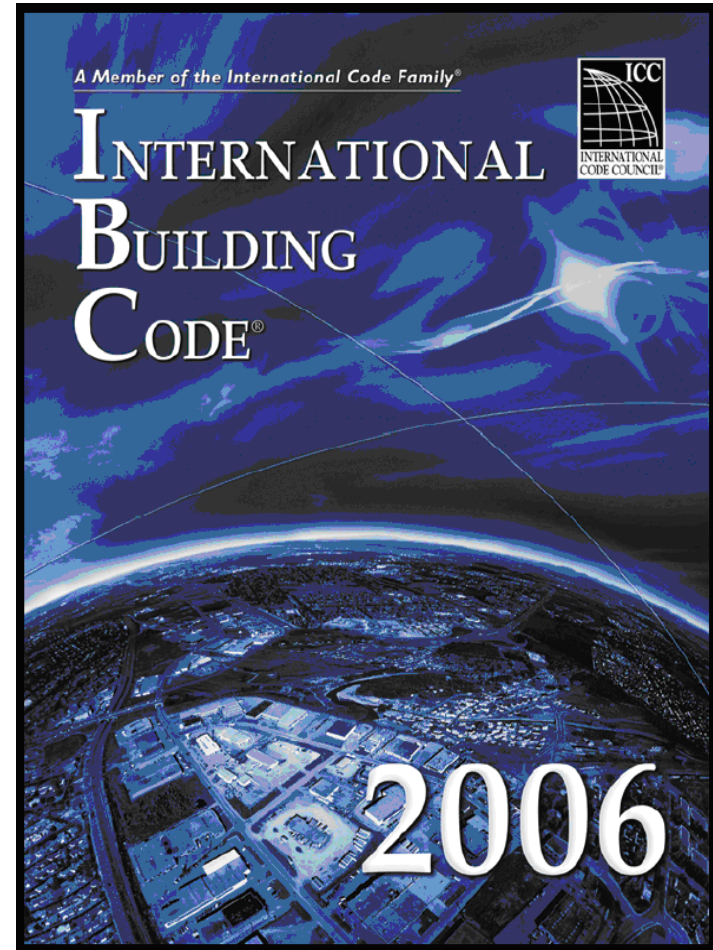
# International Code Council

- The ICC Model codes are the basis of the Minnesota State Building Code (MSBC)



# International Code Council

- The ICC Model codes are the basis of the Minnesota State Building Code (MSBC)
- MN Department of Labor and Industry creates amendments to the model codes creating the MSBC



# Continuing Research and Development such as additional Stairway requirements for exiting

NUMBER 160

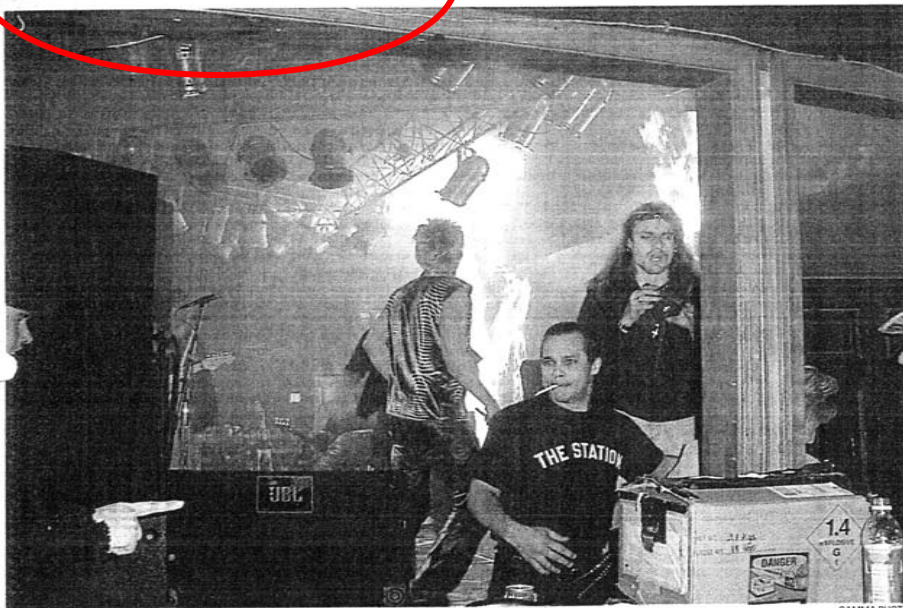
50 cents  
75 cents beyond  
30 miles from Boston

## The Boston Globe

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003

### DEADLY DECISIONS

BEHIND THE RHODE ISLAND NIGHTCLUB FIRE



GAMMA PHOTO

Band members and club employees headed for an exit after a wall ignited at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, R.I.

## Series of errors sealed crowd's fate

Second of two parts

This story was reported by Stephen Kurkjian, Stephanie Ebbert, and Thomas Farragher of the Globe staff. It was written by Farragher.

WEST WARWICK, R.I. — The indoor fireworks that would burn their way into Rhode Island history went almost unnoticed as a shadowy figure arranged them on stage.

Daniel M. Biechele, Great White's new tour manager, borrowed a flashlight and positioned the "gerbs" — devices that would spray

15-foot plumes of brilliant sparks for 15 seconds — just behind the band's guitarists and just in front of its drummer.

And then, just after 11 p.m., he turned a key that ignited the display at The Station nightclub — and triggered a cataclysm.

Biechele knew his way around The Station from earlier work with another band. He knew about fireworks, too — how to use them and how they could add a visual exclamation point to the musical roar.

In early January of this year, Biechele test-fired a gerb in a San Diego parking lot for

Great White's lead singer, Jack Russell. The band was looking for something new to spruce up its act, and Russell liked what he saw, band manager Paul Woolnough said. He said Biechele then placed an order for more than \$1,000 worth of the "pyro" from a Memphis special effects firm.

At other stops on the Great White tour, when the shower of sparks fell harmlessly to the floor, no one thought much about the possible risk.



FIRE, Page A8

# ICC Development Process

- **3 year cycle – 2012 Code cycle just finished**
  - **APA Takes a minimum of 18 months for adoption of a new code and a additional 6 months before it can be enforced**

# ICC Development Process

- **3 year cycle – 2012 Code cycle just finished**
- **2 groups of legal proceedings**
  - **A – IBC, IFGC, IMC, IPSDC**
    - **Hearings 12/2012 and 4/2012**
  - **B- IEBC, IECC, IFC, IGCC, IPMC, IRC**
    - **Hearings 12/2013 and 4/2013**

**Publish 2015 Codes 4/2014**

# Development Process (cont'd)

- **Each Code has an ICC Committee**

# Development Process (cont'd)

- **Each Code has an ICC Committee**
- **Development Hearings**
  - **Committee rules on testimony**

# Development Process (cont'd)

- **Each Code has an ICC Committee**
- **Development Hearings**
  - **Committee rules on testimony**
- **Final Action Hearings**
  - **Comments on Committee action**
  - **Code regulators only vote**
  - **Gives code official the understanding and intent of the code language for consistent enforcement**

# Importance of Code Officials

- **Life Safety focus**

# Importance of Code Officials

- **Life Safety focus**
- **No sales agenda**

# Importance of Code Officials

- **Life Safety focus**
- **No sales agenda**
- **Only voting members vote on final action**

# Importance of Code Officials

- **Life Safety focus**
- **No sales agenda**
- **Only voting members vote on final action**
- **Actual number of voters**

# Importance of Code Officials

- **Life Safety focus**
- **No sales agenda**
- **Only voting members vote on final action**
- **Actual number of voters**
- **1 Vote can make the difference**

**What this process does is to...**

- **Maintain Integrity of the Codes**

# What this process does is to...

- **Maintain Integrity of the Codes**
- **Utilize Hands on Education**

# What this process does is to...

- **Maintain Integrity of the Codes**
- **Utilize Hands on Education**
- **Provide Continuing Education Credits**

# What this process does is to...

- **Maintain Integrity of the Codes**
- **Utilize Hands on Education**
- **Provide Continuing Education Credits**
- **Represent Jurisdictions Nationwide**

# What this process does is to...

- **Maintain Integrity of the Codes**
- **Utilize Hands on Education**
- **Provide Continuing Education Credits**
- **Represent Jurisdictions Nationwide**
- **Create Uniformity in Enforcement and interpretation for consistency using local enforcement by the jurisdiction having authority**

# What this process does is to...

- **Maintain Integrity of the Codes**
- **Utilize Hands on Education**
- **Provide Continuing Education Credits**
- **Represent Jurisdictions Nationwide**
- **Create Uniformity in Enforcement and interpretation for consistency using local enforcement by the jurisdiction having authority**
- **Allow us to be able to do our jobs better**

# Region III ICC Committee



# Region III ICC Committee

- Includes:
  - Wisconsin
  - North Dakota
  - South Dakota
  - Iowa
  - Minnesota



# Region III Code Development Committee

- **MN is currently the only State in the Region with a code development process in place. We do this under the Rules process of State Government**

# Region III Code Development Committee

- **MN is currently the only State in the Region with a code development process in place**
- **Goal is to work together, share the load and the input to equal more respect at the hearing phase.**

# Purpose of the Minnesota State Building Code

- Provide minimum Standards to protect life and limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of all structures and equipment covered by the code.

# Purpose of the Minnesota State Building Code

- Provide minimum Standards to protect life and limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of all structures and equipment covered by the code.
- Bottom Line.
  - It is a Life Safety issue that has continued benefits to the jurisdiction and its citizens

# Purpose of the Minnesota State Building Code

- The 2008 legislation has made the Minnesota State Building Code (SBC) the minimum “construction standard” throughout all of Minnesota including all cities, all townships, and all counties.

# Purpose of the Minnesota State Building Code

- The 2008 legislation has made the Minnesota State Building Code (SBC) the minimum “construction standard” throughout all of Minnesota including all cities, all townships, and all counties.
- See MN Statutes 326B.121

# **Purpose of the Minnesota State Building Code**

- The SBC was been enacted through legislation in 1971 and has been in effect since July 1, 1972

# Purpose of the Minnesota State Building Code

- The SBC was enacted through legislation in 1971 and has been in effect since July 1, 1972
- The SBC has and continues to provide direct benefits to the jurisdiction and its citizens.

# Benefits of the SBC

- Provides Consistent Standards of construction to ensure the safe construction and use of buildings built in the community.

# Benefits of the SBC

- Provides Consistent Standards of construction to ensure the safe construction and use of buildings built in the community.
- Maintains Market values of buildings in the community
-

# Benefits of the SBC

- Provides Consistent Standards of construction to ensure the safe construction and use of buildings built in the community.
- Maintains Market values of buildings in the community
- Provides services from the local level that increases customer satisfaction

# Benefits of the SBC

- Provides Consistent Standards of construction to ensure the safe construction and use of buildings built in the community.
- Maintains Market values of buildings in the community
- Provides services from the local level that increases customer satisfaction
- Many more as well

# Minnesota Code Development Committees

- Subcommittees review ALL code changes
  - Research
  - Understanding
- Create a voting guide
- MN. Voting guides are recognized Nationally by many groups
- MN Amendments are proposed as changes

- **Local Metro Building Officials**
- **Educational meetings**
- **Networking**
- **Uniformity of Enforcement**

- **Lets look at one simple example of how the codes work to provide safe buildings for all of us to live and work in and around**

**“New Homes Don’t Burn?”**

**Or so I have been told...**







**No. 1 Fire in Homes  
is a Kitchen Fire**



First preventer or First responder

# First preventer or First responder

- Lets look at the importance.
  - Both are very important for

# First preventer or First responder

- Lets look at the **importance**.
  - Both are very important for
    - **Life safety issues of the buildings Occupants**

# First preventer or First responder

- Lets look at the **importance**.
  - Both are very important for
    - Life safety issues of the buildings Occupants
    - **Better built and more durably built buildings**

# First preventer or First responder

- Lets look at the **importance**.
  - Both are very important for
    - Life safety issues of the buildings Occupants
    - Better built and more durably built buildings
    - **More energy efficient buildings**

# First preventer or First responder

- Lets look at the **importance**.
  - Both are very important for
    - Life safety issues of the buildings Occupants
    - Better built and more durably built buildings
    - More energy efficient buildings
    - **Better ISO ratings =**

# First preventer or First responder

- Lets look at the **importance**.
  - Both are very important for
    - Life safety issues of the buildings Occupants
    - Better built and more durably built buildings
    - More energy efficient buildings
    - Better ISO ratings =
      - Lower insurance rates for homeowners

# First preventer or First responder

- Lets look at the **importance**.
  - Both are very important for
    - Life safety issues of the buildings Occupants
    - Better built and more durably built buildings
    - More energy efficient buildings
    - Better ISO ratings =
      - Lower insurance rates for homeowners
      - **Lower insurance rates for City itself**

# First preventer or First responder

- An ounce of Prevention is worth a pound of cure

1<sup>st</sup> Preventers

**Working together as a team**

1<sup>st</sup> Responders

Code adoption  
To provide protection  
for life and safety issues

Emergency  
Response  
& Protection

Code Enforcement  
(Through)

~~House Fire~~

Education

Education to what  
happened and how  
to prevent it

Plan review

Inspections  
For Initial  
Compliance &  
Follow ups

=

Safe & Code  
Compliant Buildings

# Thank you for Your Continued Support:

- **Allows us a code and fire officials to work as a team, “Protecting lives and property through fair and consistent code enforcement, development, interpretation, and education.”**

Questions?