



## City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020			
Submitted by: P. Morgan			
Consent	Discussion Only	Public Hearing	Action/Discussion X
Item Title: Discuss and consider approval of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances by adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Existing Building Code.			
Attachments: Ordinance			

**Item Summary:**

The City of Forney currently requires construction under the 2015 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2014 National Electrical Code. Staff has prepared the Ordinances to adopt the 2018 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2017 National Electrical Code. The amending ordinances include the following:

1. 2018 International Building Code
2. 2018 International Residential Code
3. 2018 International Existing Building Code
4. 2018 International Plumbing Code
5. 2018 International Mechanical Code
6. 2018 International Fuel Gas Code
7. 2018 International Fire Code
8. 2018 International Property Maintenance Code
9. 2018 International Energy Conservation Code
10. 2017 National Electrical Code

The codes are adopted together as a series since the codes are fully compatible with each other and provide many cross references. The purpose of the code series is to provide an international model code forum and to provide consistency across the region.

The main purpose of updating codes is to maintain up-to-date codes that address design and installation of building systems through requirements which emphasize performance and safety. In addition, updating the codes is an important factor in securing a higher rating with the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). ISO is an advisory organization which provides ratings for each City's building and fire departments. A higher rating may provide insurance benefits and cost savings for citizens. The City of Forney currently has earned the highest achievable fire rating and an above average building rating. Updated codes are necessary to maintain those ratings.

The Ordinance proposes to adopt the Codes with the inclusion of recommendations made by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). Since 1967, the NCTCOG has promoted the standardization of model construction codes in an effort to simplify the construction process, advance the safety of building systems, promote common code interpretation, and reduce training and construction costs. The recommendations are made by a committee comprising of local public and private code professionals. The City of Forney's current 2015 codes include previous NCTCOG recommendations.

**2018 International Existing Building Code:**

The purpose of this specific item is to adopt the 2018 Edition of the International Existing Building Code. The provisions of the code provide flexibility to permit the use of alternative approaches to achieve compliance with minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare insofar as they are affected by the repair, alteration, change of occupancy, addition, and relocation of existing buildings.

The International Code Council website provides the following list of key changes:

- Section 410 Accessibility has been relocated to a new Section 305. Chapters 4, 5, 6, 13 and 14 have been relocated resulting in a reorganization and new chapter numbering.
- Requirements for live loads from Chapters 4 and 8 have been combined and placed in Chapter 3 to apply for all compliance methods.
- Structural components damaged by snow events must be repaired assuming snow loads for new buildings from the IBC.
- A new exception is added for loading of existing structural elements next to an addition in buildings designed using the IRC.
- When a work area includes more than half the building in an alteration, wall anchors must be installed at the roof line along reinforced concrete and masonry walls.
- Buildings undergoing a change of occupancy shall have live, snow, wind and seismic loads checked. Design loads are based on IBC-level forces.
- When a change of occupancy occurs placing a building in a higher risk category, the seismic loads on the building must be evaluated using IBC-level forces. Access to the building must be maintained when passing through or near other buildings and structures.
- Where storm shelters are required based on IBC and ICC 500 for Group E Occupancies, any addition to such existing occupancies where the occupant load of the addition is 50 or more will trigger the construction of a storm shelter.
- Carbon Monoxide provisions have been added in the Prescriptive Method Additions, Alterations Level 2 Additions, and in Additions for I-1, I-2, I-4 and R Occupancies.
- Emergency Escape and Rescue Opening provisions related to being operational have been added to Prescriptive Compliance Method and Alterations Level 1.
- Single exit buildings and spaces under Alteration Levels 2 and 3 have been modified to be more consistent with the IBC.
- The Alterations Level 2 requirement that water for automatic fire sprinkler system be available at the floor of alteration without the need for a fire pump has been moved to Chapter 9 for Alterations Level 3 and the fire pump criterion was deleted.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval, with an effective date of June 1, 2020. The Ordinance was drafted by the Community Development Director and the Chief Building Official. The City Attorney reviewed the Ordinance.