



## 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 Residential 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 Residential Code:**

The purpose of this specific item is to adopt the 2018 Edition of the International Residential Code. The provisions of the code apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, removal and demolition of detached on- and two-family dwellings, townhouses, and their accessory structures.

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

- An updated seismic map reflects the most conservative Seismic Design Category (SDC) based on any soil type and a new map reflects less conservative SDCs when Site Class A, B or D is applicable.
- The townhouse separation provisions now include options for using two separate fire-resistant-rated walls or a common wall.
- An emergency escape and rescue opening is no longer required in basement sleeping rooms where the dwelling has an automatic fire sprinkler system and the basement has a second means of egress or an emergency escape opening.
- The exemption for interconnection of smoke alarms in existing areas has been deleted.
- New girder/header tables have been revised to incorporate the use of #2 Southern Pine in lieu of #1 Southern Pine.
- New tables address alternative wood stud heights and the required number of full height studs in high wind areas.

**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.