



## Partners in Prevention

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### **BOATX Conference Roundtable Focuses on Residential Building Codes**

FLASH's Mike Rimoldi led a roundtable discussion during the August Building Officials of Texas (BOATX) Annual Conference highlighting the FLASH research paper "[\*The Status of Residential Building Codes in the State of Texas\*](#)." The meeting was held prior to Hurricane Harvey making landfall in Texas.

Rimoldi moderated conversations about building codes as four different groups totaling nearly 50 people participated in the discussion. "The roundtable format proved to be a great way for everyone to share their views and exchange information," he said. "The participants were involved!"

Much of the discussions involved how Texas jurisdictions handle residential building codes, what worked well, and what could be improved. The roundtable discussion crossed over several agencies and interests. Some BOATX members in addition to being building officials also are part of the [\*Texas State Collaborative\*](#) and the Texas Municipal League. One benefit of the discussions was to hear from colleagues who are spread out around the state about how they manage codes in their jurisdictions.

The FLASH commentary paper outlines that the prospect for an improved residential building code system is an important topic of discussion for Texas, one of the nation's most disaster-prone states. The paper states that the Texas residential building code system is not considered a model for the nation, or even other disaster-prone states, in part because of the different standards for cities versus counties.

Many Texas cities maintain a strong and effective building code system, but most counties in the state do not. While both are equally vulnerable to disasters, their residents do not benefit from equal levels of protection. The good news is that passage of State House Bill 2040 during the 2017 Texas Legislative Session removed barriers to enforcement of codes and inspections in counties. Now it is up to county leaders to put their codes on par with city codes.