Building Codes, The Foundation for Resilience: FEMA's Building Code Strategy

You may remember a story from your youth about how a big bad hazard impacted three different homes. Stories such as these taught us that preparing for the inevitable will protect lives and save buildings from even the meanest threats. However, only 36% of the nation's communities have adopted current, hazard-resistant building codes.

Goal 1
Integrate Building Codes and Standards Across FEMA

A united FEMA moves together and speaks with a common understanding

Goal 2
Strengthen Nationwide Capability for Superior Building Performance

Coordination, training, and research improve building performance, reduce future damage, and save lives

Goal 3
Drive Public Action on Building Codes

A Nation that values and utilizes building codes is more resilient

On the heels of the new FEMA Strategy, FEMA is finalizing the FEMA Building Codes Strategy. The Strategy defines the goals and objectives that FEMA will pursue to create a more resilient Nation with superior building performance during disasters. It calls on FEMA to coordinate and prioritize Agency activities to advance the adoption and enforcement of disaster-resistant building codes and standards for FEMA programs and communities nationwide.

The Strategy is comprised of three goals and fourteen objectives. These goals and objectives provide a roadmap to unite FEMA's programs and policies, strengthen its capabilities and unify its messaging to drive public action.

The Strategy will be supported by an implementation plan and a directive to provide specific operational processes and requirements for the Agency.

Building on the success and momentum of these documents, FEMA will work towards federal collaboration and coordination through the federal alignment on building codes followed by national implementation.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to fema-building-codes-strategy@fema.dhs.gov.