



## Highlights/ Significant Changes to City of Knoxville Construction Codes

The City of Knoxville along with most cities across the country adopt building codes produced by the International Code Council. The International Code Council produces codes through a governmental consensus process. The codes are developed by building safety experts worldwide and voted on by public safety officials.

### Building Code

- Adopts the 2018 version of the International Building Code, International Residential Code and International Existing Building Code
  - **International Building Code** applies to commercial buildings
  - **International Residential Code** applies to 1 and 2 dwellings and townhouses
  - **International Existing Building Code** applies to renovations and alterations to existing buildings
- Highlights
  - Storm shelters are required for schools, fire stations, police stations, and other emergency operation centers. (IBC)
  - Carbon monoxide detection is required in homes (IRC)
  - Deck construction requirements now included for homes (IRC)
  - Allows for greater flexibility to reuse existing buildings with the adoption of the International Existing Building Code
- Amendments
  - International Residential Code has the following amendments
    - Riser heights of stairs are allowed greater variation at the top and bottom for differing flooring materials
    - Additional exception is allowed for handrails in homes
    - Allowance for a landing where basement egress windows might not meet the maximum sill height of 44 inches

- Modifies the fire sprinkler requirements for single family homes to only require fire sprinklers in very large homes or townhome structures.

### **Fire Code**

- Adopts the 2018 version of the International Fire Code
  - **International Fire Code** applies to all structures and facilities within the jurisdiction to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises, and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.
- Amendments
  - Adopt appendices B,C,D, I and K
    - Appendices B, C, and D provide minimum design criteria for fire department site access. This would be beneficial for new construction sites or new subdivisions to provide the requirements for fire truck access points, road width, etc.
    - Appendix I provides a list of conditions for maintenance of existing buildings and what would be considered a hazardous situation
    - Appendix K is a supplement to the International Building Code for ambulatory care facilities (clinics that provide outpatient service, etc.)

### **Electrical Code**

- Adopts the 2017 National Electrical Code in alliance with the State of Iowa.
- The State of Iowa has established a minimum electrical code, which is currently the 2017 National Electrical Code.
- State of Iowa also requires licensed electricians for anyone performing electrical work

### **Plumbing and Mechanical Code**

- Adopts the State Plumbing Code and State Mechanical Code as the minimum standard for all plumbing and mechanical work
- In 2007, the State of Iowa adopted minimum standards for plumbing and mechanical work that is conducted within the State of Iowa.
- This section also references the State law requiring all who perform plumbing and/ or mechanical work to hold an appropriate State plumbing and/ or mechanical license.