International Fire Codes (IFC) 2021 Edition Update



Purpose of fire codes

- Provide minimum building and occupancy standards necessary for protection of life and property.
- Safeguard public health, safety, and welfare.
- Provide for the safety of firefighters/emergency responders
- Protects investments



Why update codes?

- Updated technology and methods
- ISO BCEGS and PPC
 - Scores municipalities on codes (loss risks) and provides them to insurance providers, can affect insurance premiums
 - Municipalities with effective, well-enforced codes should demonstrate lower losses and lower insurance rates
- Industry standard
 - Uniformity with Building Codes
 - Many nearby communities are on newer codes, including Harris County



Comparable cities

Municipality	Building Code	Fire Code
Bellaire	2021	2021
Humble	2018	2018
West University Place	2021	2021
Katy	2021	2021
Stafford	updating to 2024	updating to 2024
Pearland	2021	2021
Webster	2021	2021
Friendswood	2018	2018
Jersey Village	2018	2018
Conroe	2009	2009
Harris County	None	updating to 2021



What has been done so far?

- Purchased updated code books
- Training on 2021 codes
 - Fire Chief, Fire Marshal and Deputies
- Informed the development community of the proposed update



Significant code changes

- Outlined in background information
- Mostly just clarifications
- Allows for new technology
- 2021 codes have become the industry standard
 - Anticipate little to no impact to developers costs.



Adoption schedule

- City Council Workshop
 - December 2, 2024
- Regular City Council
 - December 16, 2024 first reading of ordinance
 - January 6, 2025 second reading of ordinance

