

DATE: July 31, 2025

TO: UNT Denton, UNTHSC, UNT Dallas & UNT System Design and Facilities Staffs

FROM: Debra Crafton, Building Official/AHJ

RE: UNT System Design and Construction Codes

For all building construction projects on state-owned and state-controlled property (including privately owned buildings built on state-owned and state-controlled property), state agency leased buildings and leased spaces, the adopted editions of the *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life-Safety Code* and *NFPA 1 Fire Code* shall be used as the primary building design codes. Where NFPA 101 or NFPA 1 do not address the specific design/construction under consideration, the adopted edition of the International Code Conference (ICC) code applicable to the design/construction discipline shall be used.

The following code/standards shall be used however; this list is not to be considered all-inclusive:

NFPA Codes/Standards to use are, but not limited to:

- 2021 edition *NFPA 1 Fire Code*.
- 2021 edition *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code*.
- 2023 edition *NFPA 70 National Electrical Code*.
- 2019 edition *NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Signaling Code*.
- 2019 edition *NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of [Fire] Sprinkler Systems*.

International Code Conference (ICC) codes to use:

- 2021 edition *International Building Code (IBC)*¹;
- 2021 edition *International Mechanical Code (IMC)*;
- 2021 edition *International Plumbing Code (IPC)*;
- 2021 edition *International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)*.
- 2021 edition *International Fire Code (IFC)*;

- **Local Jurisdiction Codes:**

- *"The State Fire Marshal's Office has directed all state universities and agencies who depend on local fire departments for emergency response and fire suppression to design their construction project with the local fire department in mind. Building and site design shall ensure water supply for fire suppression; fire department access to buildings; locations and compatibility of fire hydrant and fire department connections; fire sprinkler systems; standpipe and hose systems; alarm systems;*

¹ Adopted as State of Texas Building Code

and other emergency equipment for buildings are constructed for use by the respective local fire department”².

- Local fire code requirements of the respective city where the construction is located (UNT, UNTHSC, UNT Dallas and UNT System (Dallas & Frisco) campuses) pertaining only to the following which shall be incorporated into the project’s design and construction:
 - water supply for fire suppression;
 - fire hydrant number and locations;
 - Fire Department Connection (FDC) location;
 - fire department access to the building;
 - KNOX® key access boxes – contact UNTS Fire Marshal’s Office for specifics (see below);
 - fire sprinkler and standpipe systems;
 - fire hose connections;
 - fire detection and alarm system;
 - elevator emergency operations requirements, and cab sized for stretcher requirements;
 - Bi-directional antenna communication coverage;
 - other emergency equipment requirements.

KNOX® key boxes are required to be installed on all state-owned buildings, on buildings located on state- owned or state-controlled property (includes privately owned buildings built on state-owned or state- controlled property) and on buildings leased by or containing leased space by a state agency. For ordering details, contact the UNT System Fire Marshal’s Office – Debra.Crafton@untsystem.edu or Calvin.Payne@untsystem.edu

For the UNT Campus at Denton, TX., Refer to Requirements in the Latest Revision of:

Design & Construction Guidelines – The University of North Texas (access the UNT Facilities Resources webpage at <http://facilities.unt.edu/resources/forms-and-documents-library>. See the *Projects & Renovations* section, a link titled “Design Guidelines – UNT”

- For design guidelines specific to UNT Discovery Park – access the UNT facilities Resources webpage at <http://facilities.unt.edu/resources/forms-and-documents-library>. See the *Projects & Renovations* section, a link titled “Design Guidelines – RP Appendix.”
- Questions regarding *the Design & Construction Guidelines – The University of North Texas* are to be emailed to: **Peter.Palacios@unt.edu**

Accessibility Standard:

- 2012 *Texas Accessibility Standards (2012 TAS). (Elimination of Architectural Barriers Texas Government Code, Chapter 469. Administered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Effective March 15, 2012).*

² Memorandum to State Universities “Co-operation with Local Jurisdictions and Fire Departments”, G. Mike Davis, State Fire Marshal, July 1, 2001; Chris Connealy, State Fire Marshal, February 4, 2016.

**Elevator and Escalator Construction Standard:
Energy Conservation Codes:**

- Commercial Construction and Major Commercial Renovation³: Commercial Provisions of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)⁴
- Low-Rise Residential Building⁵: Residential Provisions of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)⁶
- ASHRAE 90.1 – 2013 edition

Water & Conservation Standards

"Water & Conservation Design Standards for State Buildings and Institutions of Higher Education Facilities" prepared by SECO, dated April 2016, for any new construction or major renovation project.

Download available: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/seco/code/>