DATE: June 26, 2015
TO: Raymond O. Kearbey, Associate Vice Chancellor of System Facilities, Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)
FROM: Pat L. Dunlap, UNT System Fire Marshal/FPE
RE: UNTS Design and Construction Codes

For state-owned facilities, the 2012 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life-Safety Code must be used as the primary code for building design and construction. Where there is discrepancy between construction codes and NFPA 101, NFPA 101 shall take precedence. Per direction of the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO)¹, state universities are also obligated to “… co-operate with local jurisdictions and fire departments…” by ensuring adequate water supply and building access to local municipal fire departments who provide fire suppression service to the university.

Where the 2012 NFPA 101 does not address the specific construction under consideration, the International Code applicable to the discipline is to be used. For example, general plumbing is not specifically addressed in NFPA 101 or a referenced NFPA standard therefore, the International Plumbing Code is to be used.

The following is not to be considered an all-inclusive list of codes and standards. All projects must also meet applicable federal and state regulations. Additional codes added to specific projects must be approved in advance by the AHJ.

NFPA Standards to use are, but not limited to:

2012 edition NFPA 1 Fire Code;
2013 edition NFPA 13 Standard for the installation of [Fire] Sprinkler Systems
2013 edition NFPA 14 Standards for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems;

¹ Memorandum to State Universities "Co-operation with Local Jurisdictions and Fire Departments", G. Mike Davis, State Fire Marshal, July 1, 2001.
2013 edition NFPA 24 Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances;
2013 edition NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Signaling Code;

The International Code Conference (ICC) codes to use are:

2012 edition International Building Code,
2012 edition International Mechanical Code,
2012 edition International Plumbing Code,
2012 edition International Fire Code,

Elevator and Escalator Construction:
ASTM 17.1-2007

Accessibility Standards to use:
2010 edition Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
2012 edition ADDAG (Texas Accessibility Standards)


Local Jurisdiction Codes to use:
City of Denton, TX. Fire Code amendments pertaining to building access & fire protection systems
City of Dallas, TX. Fire Code amendments pertaining to building access & fire protection systems
City of Ft. Worth, TX. Fire Code amendments pertaining to building access & fire protection systems