



UNT      UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER      UNT DALLAS      UNT SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

DATE:            May 20, 2021

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

FROM:          Pat L. Dunlap, UNT System Fire Marshal, FPE, 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 2018 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 standards/codes shall be used however; this list is not to be considered all-inclusive:

**NFPA Codes/Standards to use<sup>1</sup> are, but not limited to:**

- 2018 edition *NFPA 1 Fire Code*;
- 2018 edition *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code*;
- 2013 edition *NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of [Fire] Sprinkler Systems*;
- 2013 edition *NFPA 13R Standard for the Installation of [Fire] Sprinklers in Low-Rise Residential Buildings*;
- 2013 edition *NFPA 14 Standards for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*;
- 2013 edition *NFPA 20 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection*;
- 2013 edition *NFPA 24 Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances*;
- 2020 edition *NFPA 70 National Electrical Code*;
- 2013 edition *NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Signaling Code*;

**International Code Conference (ICC) codes to use<sup>2</sup>:**

- 2018 edition *International Building Code (IBC)*;
- 2018 edition *International Mechanical Code (IMC)*;
- 2018 edition *International Plumbing Code (IPC)*;
- 2018 edition *International Fire Code (IFC)*;

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Insurance.

<sup>2</sup> Authorized by the UNT System Board of Regents.

1. *Municipal fire code amendments of the city<sup>3</sup> where the building is being constructed, pertaining to the following shall be used in the project design and construction:*
  - a. water supply for fire suppression;
  - b. fire hydrant number and locations;
  - c. fire department access to the building; include KNOX<sup>®</sup> key access boxes – contact UNTS Fire Marshal for specifics;
  - d. fire department connections;
  - e. fire sprinkler and standpipe systems;
  - f. fire hose connections;
  - g. fire alarm system;
  - h. elevator stretcher requirements;
  - i. communication coverage;
  - j. other emergency equipment requirements.
- 2018 edition *International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)*.

### **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; and other emergency equipment for buildings are constructed for use by the respective local fire department<sup>4</sup>. Local fire code amendments of the respective city where the construction is located (UNT, UNTHSC, UNT Dallas, UNT System campus locations are: Denton, Ft. Worth, Dallas or Frisco), pertaining to the State Fire Marshal's directive, shall be incorporated into the project's design and construction.

**KNOX<sup>®</sup> 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 -- [pat.dunlap@untsystem.edu](mailto:pat.dunlap@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”

<sup>3</sup> Respectively: City of Denton, TX; City of Ft. Worth, TX.; City of Dallas, TX; City of Frisco, TX

<sup>4</sup> 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.

- 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](mailto: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).*

**Elevator and Escalator Construction Standard:**

- *Elevators, Escalators and Related Equipment, Administrative Rules of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, 16 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 74, §74.100 (Effective February 15, 2016); and*
- *2018 International Building Code (IBC), Chapter 30.*

**Energy Conservation Codes:**

- Commercial Construction and Major Commercial Renovation<sup>5</sup>  
*Commercial Provisions of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)*<sup>6</sup>
- Low-Rise Residential Building<sup>7</sup>  
*Residential Provisions of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)*<sup>8</sup>
- 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/>

**END**

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<sup>5</sup>Major Renovation Projects: *For the purposes of this subchapter, a major renovation project is a building renovation or improvement where the implementation cost associated with energy or water efficiency improvements is \$2 million or more, based on the initial engineering cost estimate. 34 Tex. Admin. Code §19.33.*

<sup>6</sup> *34 Tex. Admin Code §19.32*

<sup>7</sup> Low-Rise Residential Building: Buildings not more than three stories in height above grade that includes sleeping accommodations and a separate means of egress, and where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature (30 or more days in occupancy).

<sup>8</sup> *34 Tex. Admin Code §19.32*