



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®



ICC Region III Upper Great Plains Educational Institute

February 9, 2026 through February 13, 2026

www.iccsafe.org/RegionIII | 1.888.ICC.SAFE (422.7233), ext. 4



Welcome to the 22nd ICC Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute

Welcome!

Check out the abundant networking opportunities and outstanding educational offerings at a superb venue. The Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO), the International Code Council (ICC), and the Region III Chapter of ICC are proud to collaborate on the 22nd year of this annual educational event. This week-long event focuses on the construction-inspection industry. You are invited to join us the week of February 9th through 13th, 2026, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

A Week of Diversified, Engaging Programs

The Institute features 37 sessions of construction-industry related topics offered in eight tracks over five days. Select sessions () will be offered virtually. Presenters are well-qualified and often well-known individuals from ICC and from construction-inspection industry-related areas. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. The week should be of particular interest to individuals involved in building code administration, building inspections, and related regulatory and/or design positions, as well as contractors, builders, and students. Network with colleagues. Meet and mingle with Building Officials, Building Inspectors, Permit Technicians, Fire Inspectors, Mechanical and Plumbing Inspectors, Housing Inspectors, Design Professionals, Contractors, Students in Construction-Related Programs, and other attendees.

Do You Need Continuing Education?

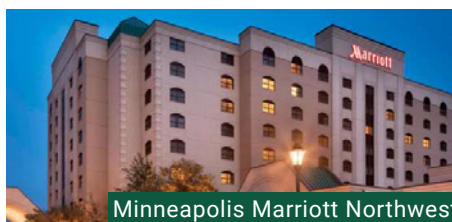
The International Code Council provides continuing education approvals for ICC certifications. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry provides continuing education approvals for Minnesota licensees. The International Code Council also submits some **specific ICC-labeled sessions** to the American Institute of Architects for continuing education approval. For submission to AIA for continuing education credit, you must sign-in on the separate AIA attendance sheets provided for eligible sessions. Check session descriptions to learn which sessions are ICC-specific and eligible for AIA submission. NOTE: MN DLI CEU approvals are currently pending.

It's a Great Venue for the Event

At the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest you can enjoy the convenience of modern, well-appointed hotel suites and classrooms under one roof. The Marriott is conveniently located 30 minutes from the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, near multiple shopping and dining options, and offers free onsite self-parking. Registered institute attendees are provided with continental breakfast prior to session starts, light morning and afternoon breaks, and buffet lunch.

Location

Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
7025 Northland Drive North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55428
763.536.8300 – General Hotel Information
Or, [visit the website](#).



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Marriott Guestroom Reservations and AMBO Group Rate

All guest rooms are two-room suites. AMBO group-rate reservations are available through **January 19, 2026**. The AMBO Group Rate is \$144 per day plus applicable taxes. Room block is available from Sunday, February 8, 2026 through Friday, February 13, 2026.

- Reserve your room [on-line](#) (Preferred):
- Or, call the reservation line, 1.877.303.1681, and request the Group Rate for the **AMBO Conference**.

Registration Information

Registration is Online Only: Register at www.iccsafe.org/RegionIII.

IMPORTANT! Registration Closes: Monday, February 2, 2026, the week prior to the event.

Walk-In Registration: Walk-in registration (as classroom space allows) opens on-site Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7 am..

Daily Registration Rates:

- *The on-site registration includes continental breakfast, breaks, and lunch.*

Daily Rate: \$235 each day for one, two or three days.

Multi-Day Discount: \$200 for each day for four or five days.

Early-Bird Rate: \$200 per day **if registered by Monday, January 12, 2026.**

Walk-In Rate: \$250 per day. *Popular sessions may fill and may close early.*

Cancellation/Refund Policy and Point-of-Contact for Questions: Submit cancellation and refund requests by email to learn@iccsafe.org. For registration questions, email learn@iccsafe.org or call ICC at 888.422.7233, ext 4.

Chapter President's Special: ICC Chapter Presidents may take advantage of a complimentary day of attendance at the Institute. Contact Dennis Schilling, AMBO Chair, at dschilling@wspsmn.gov.

Scholarships: Six 1-day scholarships for Interns or Minnesota BIT program participants are available. Contact Jerry Backlund, AMBO Education Committee Chair, at jbacklund@hastingsmn.gov for more details.

Special Events

AMBO General Membership Meeting

The AMBO General Membership Meeting will be after class on Monday. All are welcome, please plan to attend! Location to be announced.

Trade Show

Wednesday and Thursday are "Trade Show Days." Visit participating vendors of various products and services that affect the building industry.

ICC Resource Center

The ICC Resource Center will be on-site Wednesday and Thursday with a wide assortment of Code books as well as ICC merchandise. Check it out!

ICC Region III Chapter Meeting

The Region III Chapter of ICC will hold their annual membership meeting on Wednesday during lunch. Location to be announced.

AMBO Board Meeting

The AMBO Board of Directors will hold an on-site Board Meeting. Time and Location to be determined.

**We look forward to seeing new faces and renewing past acquaintances
at this unique, networking and training opportunity!**

How to Register

In-Person Classes (all classes)

Check out the **Green Matrix** for the In-Person classes offered at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest Hotel.

Virtual Classes (select few)

Can't travel? Join us virtually! Check out the virtual offerings in the matrix with a **Yellow Bar** and noted with a **V**.

How do I register **Myself**?

If you are registering yourself and you will be the one attending classes at Region III Education Event, go to iccsafe.org/RegionIII and click on **Individual Registration**. You will see the registration page as shown below. Click on New Registration and follow the prompts to complete your individual registration.



The screenshot shows the registration page for the ICC Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute. The header features the ICC logo and a city skyline. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Welcome, Attendee Information, Select Agenda, Additional Attendees, and Registration Record. The main content area displays a welcome message and a prompt to select a registration type. It includes a link to view the 2025 brochure and two buttons: New Registration and Modify Registration.

How do I register a **Group or Another Individual**?

There are two options for group registrations and registering another individual this year.

1. Click on Individual Registration (same process as above). Complete attendee #1. Once entered, you will be prompted if you will be registering any other attendees for this event:

Will you be registering any other attendees for this event?*

☐ Yes ☐ No



Two buttons: Back and Continue.

After you click Yes, you will be prompted to enter the information for the additional attendee. You may repeat this process until you register all your participants.

2. You may register groups of 10 or more by clicking **Group Enrollment** and completing the online form on iccsafe.org/RegionIII. ICC will manually register all individuals on your online form within 7 days and send confirmation emails directly to the individuals. Please provide the specific attendee emails.

TRACK 1 – CODE COMPLIANCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY 2/9/2026

Strategic Leadership: Building a Code Enforcement Legacy

Session 611

This comprehensive code enforcement leadership training program is designed to empower code enforcement staff with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in their roles, improve community relations, and foster a collaborative, resilient work environment. The curriculum is divided into four key areas: Leadership, Customer Service Excellence, Effective Teamwork and Strategic Planning Basics. Each model aims to equip participants with practical tools, strategies, and insights to enhance their performance, address challenges and promote positive change within their teams and communities.

Instructor: Ed Nichols, Jr. (Willdan Engineering)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

AM: Housing Inspections 101

Session 612

Learn the essentials of housing inspections using the International Property Maintenance Code®. Identify legal requirements, maintenance standards, safety concerns and best practices for compliance. Identify real world violations and how to apply the IPMC to real world examples.

Instructor: Greg Smith (GMS Presentations and Training)

PM: Identifying & Understanding Hoarding Disorder

Learn about hoarding disorder and how to identify and understand it better. This class will provide valuable insights and practical tips for dealing with hoarding cases by recognizing symptoms, causes and hazards. In addition, learn about best practices and forms for inspections.

Instructor: Greg Smith (GMS Presentations and Training)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

Effective Inspection Programs

Session 613

The goal of this session is to discuss effective strategies for regulating various types of housing within diverse communities while implementing best practices for enforcing housing and zoning codes. The aim is to support participants in developing impactful programs that facilitate the regulation of multifamily housing, including the establishment of rental registrations and foreclosure registries.

Instructor: Marcus Kellum (Metric One Training & Consulting)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

Legal, Ethical and Moral Code Enforcement

Session 614

Ethics and morals relate to "right" and "wrong" conduct. While they are sometimes used interchangeably, they are different. Is following the rules the safest option? This course is designed to explore the world of these concepts in a regulatory environment and to help officers and inspectors develop practices to stay abreast of the right and wrong things to do during their daily workday.

Instructor: Marcus Kellum (Metric One Training & Consulting)

FRIDAY 2/13/2026

AM: Non-Verbal Communication

Session 615

Nonverbal communication allows us to convey our inner thoughts, emotions and current state through visual signals. These physical cues are fundamentals, and compelling research indicates that they often build more trust than spoken language. In fact, many researchers propose that a staggering 70 to 90% of all adult communication occurs nonverbally. This session will equip you with the skills to strategically employ conscious, semiconscious, illustrative, and unconscious cues to encourage voluntary compliance.

Instructor: Mitch Hammes (That Code Enforcement Guy)

PM: Building Strong Habits

This discussion focuses on building and maintaining trust with community members, colleagues and supervisors. These strong relationships are foundational for fostering collaborative cultures and driving exceptional success. We will explore the importance of genuinely caring for those we interact with, both within our teams and the wider community, to encourage cooperation. Furthermore, we will examine strategies and examples for cultivating personal and professional excellence.

Instructor: Mitch Hammes (That Code Enforcement Guy)

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

TRACK 2 – BUILDING: UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

MONDAY 2/9/2026

Plan Review Skills

Session 621

Plan Review Skills examines the soft skills, or nontechnical traits and behaviors, that enhance the plan reviewer's ability to interact and collaborate with other stakeholders in the built environment. This course is in two parts. Part one covers decision making, problem solving, professionalism, integrity, honesty and time management with the goal of fostering the public trust. Part two covers elements of a plan review and systematic approaches to the plan review process to ensure success. This Plan Review Skills class will also help Permit Techs to better understand the process and explain why certain documents required at permit application submittal.

Instructor: John Gibson (ICC)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

Field Inspections: 2024 IRC

Session 622

The design of this course provides a procedure useful for the inspection of single or two-family dwellings and townhouse residential dwellings on the basis of Chapters 1-10 of the 2024 IRC. Throughout this process, participants will be allowed to evaluate code language and actual construction methods, as well as documentation guidelines and procedures.

Instructor: Russell Thornburg (Thornburg Code Services)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

Roof to Soil: Essentials of Building Load Transfer, Design and Inspection

Session 623

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of how structural loads are transferred through a building's entire system, from the roof to the soil, and the critical role this plays in structural integrity and safety.

Instructor: Russell Thornburg (Thornburg Code Services)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

Notable IRC Changes: 2018 to 2024

Session 624

Participants will be able to identify significant changes between 2018 IRC to 2024 IRC. Discussion of background behind some of the code changes will lead to a better understanding of the intent behind those changes, as well as identifying optimum methods of application.

Instructor: Russell Thornburg (Thornburg Code Services)

FRIDAY 2/13/2026

2024 IRC Building Safety Features

Session 625

This seminar addresses the critical concepts of the 2024 IRC regarding fire and life safety issues. These concepts provide a basis for the correct use of the code in building planning, fire-resistance, means of egress, emergency escape and rescue, safety glazing and other building safety provisions. The discussion relates to the design, plan review and inspection decisions necessary to ensure safe residential buildings complying with the IRC.

Instructor: Sandra Hyde (ICC)

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

TRACK 3 – BUILDING: GENERAL TOPICS

MONDAY 2/9/2026

Wall Bracing and Truss Bracing

Session 631

"MN 1300 and Wall Bracing," is designed to provide attendees with a comprehensive understanding of critical aspects of building codes and construction practices in Minnesota. It will cover essential topics such as identifying your audience and customer, navigating Minnesota Rules 1300-1303, and the intricacies of permits and applications. The course will also delve into the Minnesota Energy Code, inspection and correspondence records, and key chapter 3 building planning highlights. A significant portion of the course will be dedicated to a practical approach to wall bracing, including a review of its intent and purpose, identification of requirements needed for plan review and inspections as well as addressing common corrections encountered in 2025, emphasizing communication strategies to avoid recurring issues.

Instructor: Nick Gilliland (Rum River)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

2024 IBC Means of Egress

Session 632

This seminar addresses numerous provisions in Chapter 10 of the IBC pertaining to establishing a compliant means of egress system in buildings. The course is intended to assist designers, plan reviewers, inspectors and code officials in applying the concepts and applications of both the egress design provisions and the egress component requirements. General topics of discussion include the determination of occupant loads, exit access design, including egress distribution, common path of egress travel, corridors, egress illumination and exit signs, and exit components, such as interior exit stairways, exit passageways and horizontal exits.

Instructor: Doug Thornburg (ICC)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

Day 1: B3 Building Plans Examiner Academy Session 633

The 2021 Building Plans Examiner Certification Test Academy features expert instruction and includes interactive review exercises, practice exams and individual and group-based activities to help you get better prepared to take the exam. Throughout the academy you will be given an opportunity to answer questions that reference the exam resources.

Main Topics include: General Administration, Building Planning, Footings and Special Foundations, Floor Construction, Wall Construction and Coverings, Roof/Ceiling Construction and Public Safety and Special Construction.

Jerry Flanik (ICC)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

Day 2: B3 Building Plans Examiner Academy Session 634

The 2021 Building Plans Examiner Certification Test Academy features expert instruction and includes interactive review exercises, practice exams and individual and group-based activities to help you get better prepared to take the exam. Throughout the academy you will be given an opportunity to answer questions that reference the exam resources.

Main Topics include: General Administration, Building Planning, Footings and Special Foundations, Floor Construction, Wall Construction and Coverings, Roof/Ceiling Construction and Public Safety and Special Construction.

Jerry Flanik (ICC)

FRIDAY 2/13/2026

AM: 2024 IBC Exit Systems

Session 635

This seminar focuses on IBC Chapter 10 means of egress components that are defined and regulated as exits. These components, defined in Chapter 2, are considered as high-level elements that provide a considerable degree of occupant protection within the means of egress system. The exit discharge provisions will also be discussed. Specific topics include interior exit stairways, exit passageways, horizontal exits and exterior exit stairways.

PM: 2024 IBC Mixed Occupancies

Based on the provisions of IBC Section 508, this seminar addresses those special requirements applicable to buildings containing two or more occupancy classifications. The three mixed-occupancy options are presented along with examples and exercises that illustrate the proper application of the provisions. Specific topics include:

- Occupancy classification
- Mixed occupancy conditions
- Accessory occupancies
- Non-separated occupancies
- Separated occupancies
- Multi-story conditions

Instructor: Doug Thornburg (ICC)

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

TRACK 4 – BUILDING: ESSENTIALS TO KNOW

MONDAY 2/9/2026

Podium Type Buildings-Issues and Solutions Session 641

Podium type buildings are becoming more popular across the country. They are unique buildings with many different code requirements. This seminar will provide an overview of the specific requirements for these types of buildings and how to apply the building code to the design, construction and inspections. Subjects will include type of construction, building height and area, means of egress and much more. We will also discuss some of the issues surrounding these buildings and possible solutions to comply with the intent of the code.

Instructor: Steve Thomas (Shums Coda Associates)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

Advanced Studies of the IBC Session 642

This class will provide a provocative and higher level of review of the International Building Code®. The class will focus on unusual and more complex fire and life safety provisions of the code. Chapters 7-10 of the IBC will be discussed during the seminar. Subjects included will be fire walls, fire barriers, smoke barriers, automatic fire sprinklers, fire alarm systems, interior finishes, large building egress and other advanced provisions of the code. Case studies of large and unusual buildings will be discussed during the seminar.

Instructor: Steve Thomas (Shums Coda Associates)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction Session 643

This class reviews the use of the alternate materials and methods requirements of the codes. The class will review the use of ICC evaluation reports when using the International Building Code®. Different types of materials and methods will be discussed. Examples of how those materials and methods should be evaluated will be provided to attendees who will have a better understanding of how to review or submit alternates.

Instructor: Steve Thomas (Shums Coda Associates)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

2024 IBC Assembly Spaces Session 644

This seminar will address the 2024 International Building Code® (IBC) requirements applicable to design and construction of assembly spaces. It will address the differences between the various Group A occupancies and how assembly uses may also fit within the business or educational occupancy classifications. The seminar will cover the unique aspects of the code related to assembly uses including the stage and platform requirements of Section 410, the ICC 300 Standard for Bleachers, Folding and Telescopic Seating, and Grandstands, the special egress provisions of Section 1030, along with the special amusement areas and motion picture projection room requirements from Chapter 4. The discussion will also include the unique IBC criteria applicable to fire protection and building size issues in assembly buildings. During this seminar, participants will listen to a lecture, discuss examples and participate in activities that pertain to the course content.

Instructor: Doug Thornburg (ICC)

FRIDAY 2/13/2026

2024 IBC Significant Changes Session 645

This seminar reviews and analyzes selected significant changes from the 2021 to the 2024 edition of the International Building Code® (IBC). Although the focus of the presentation is on revisions to the IBC fire- and life-safety provisions, additional areas of discussion include accessibility, construction materials, structural provisions and building services. The seminar assists building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors and design professionals in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and understanding the reasoning behind the changes.

Instructor: John Gibson (ICC)

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

TRACK 5 – BUILDING: SPECIFIC CONCERNS

MONDAY 2/9/2026

2024 IBC Transition from the 2018 IBC Session 651

This seminar will assist participants in implementing the transition from the 2018 IBC to the 2024 IBC. It will include relevant changes in both the 2021 and 2024 editions. This interactive training will focus on the intent and application of the new and revised requirements with an emphasis on fire- and life-safety provisions. During this training, participants will be listening to lecture and engaging in class discussion. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to better apply the 2024 IBC in the design, plan review, and/or inspection of buildings.

Instructor: George Reid (ICC)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

2024 IRC Transition from the 2018 IRC Session 652

This seminar reviews and analyzes selected significant changes from the 2018 IRC to the 2024 IRC. It familiarizes building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors and design professionals with many of the significant changes in the 2024 and 2021 IRC. It assists code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred, and more importantly, understanding the reason behind the change. Finally, it focuses on those code changes selected due to their frequency of application, special significance or change in application.

Instructor: John Gibson (ICC)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

2024 IRC Decks, What's New Session 653

Since the 2015 IRC, Section R507 for decks has been growing and changing. In the 2024 edition, a nearly complete package of prescriptive structural design codes are provided. This class will cover the new and changed codes in the 2024 IRC for deck construction, and some significant ones from the 2021 edition. The instructor of this class has been a large contributor to the creation of all deck codes since 2015 and writes ICC's deck code construction book.

Instructor: Glenn Mathewson (BuildingCodeCollege.com)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

Porch Roof Design and Plan Review Session 654

Like decks, porch roofs are often considered easy construction and are often attempted by new contractors or weekend warrior homeowners. However, the truth is quite the contrary. Porch roofs require significant evaluation depending on the extreme variety of their design. This class reviews the code application of these projects from the foundation to the roofing for both designers and reviewers.

Instructor: Glenn Mathewson (BuildingCodeCollege.com)

FRIDAY 2/13/2026

2024 IBC Care Facilities Session 655

This seminar will address provisions in the 2024 International Building Code®(IBC) and referenced standards relating to the design and construction of care facilities, such as medical care, custodial care, ambulatory care and day care facilities. It will focus on the specific decision-making needed to apply the provisions appropriately by highlighting the differences between the various types of care activities. The seminar will include a discussion on how the length of stay, number of care recipients, degree of care and capability/incapability of self-preservation all relate to the occupancy classification and resultant code requirements. Smoke compartments, dwelling and sleeping unit separations, incidental use separations and other special conditions provisions are also addressed. Unique provisions will be highlighted in the areas of accessibility, type of construction, fire protection, means of egress and interior finishes. During this seminar, participants will listen to lecture, discuss examples and participate in activities that pertain to applying sections of the IBC to care facilities.

Instructor: Roger Axel (ICC)

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

TRACK 6 – MULTI-DISCIPLINARY: BUILDING AND FIRE

MONDAY 2/9/2026

Fire Sprinkler Systems: Sprinkler Equipment Session 661

Examining fire sprinkler system manufacturer specification, bulletins, technical data sheets, or “cut sheets” are an important part of being a fire sprinkler system inspector. Fire sprinkler systems are installed according to the International Building Code® (IBC) and one of the two US model fire codes (International Fire Code® (IFC), or NFPA 1 Fire Code) and their referenced standards (NFPA 13), but manufacturers have specific installation requirements for their listed products adding to the minimum requirements. This course will review specific cut sheets of sprinklers, piping, valves and more to provide an efficient and thorough method of incorporating the review of these documents.

Instructor: John Swanson (NFSA)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

Fire Sprinkler System Plan Review Session 662

Examining fire sprinkler shop drawings, cut sheets and hydraulic calculations is a primary duty of the authority having jurisdiction. This course will provide a method of reviewing plans and other fire sprinkler documents that is efficient and thorough. Attendees will learn what documents to accept to start a review, and how to have confidence while reviewing hydraulic calculations. This course applies to current codes and the standards to fire sprinkler systems from the initial site plan review, through the construction documents, to the as-built drawings. Significant time on how to effectively communicate deficiencies to the design professional. Students will receive a handout that provides detailed checklists with expert commentary that is useful to the fire sprinkler plan review for years to come.

Instructor: John Swanson (NFSA)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

Standpipes for Fire Protection Session 663

This one-day program provides participants with comprehensive knowledge of the design, layout and installation of standpipe systems in accordance with NFPA 14. The seminar will also include an in-depth review of the scoping and installation requirements outlined in the International Building Code® (IBC). Through engaging discussions and activities, participants will explore topics such as system pressures, challenges in tall buildings, requirements for horizontal standpipes, and acceptance testing criteria for standpipe systems.

Instructor: Chase Browning (NFSA)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

Rough and Final Inspections of Sprinkler Systems Session 664

This one-day seminar provides attendees with vital information on how to conduct the field inspections for new fire sprinkler and standpipe systems. Fire sprinkler systems are installed in stages, and inspections are required before commencing the next stage. The codes require periodic on-site inspections as the work progresses, to be installed according to the approved construction documents. This work must be inspected and approved before being covered or before the system is commissioned. This course points to the visual and physical inspection requirements of the latest codes and standards.

Instructor: Chase Browning (NFSA)

FRIDAY 2/13/2026

AM: Firestop Systems Session 665

This presentation will provide a detailed review of how through-and-membrane penetrations in fire-resistance-rated assemblies are protected following the Design, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance (DIIM) concept. It includes an in-depth review of code requirements, testing procedures, what materials and components make up a firestop system, how to use the UL Product IQ online directory to locate code compliant systems, and how to insure that the firestop system is installed as a “complete assembly.”

PM: Protect your Openings Fire Door and Fire Window Assemblies

This program provides a detailed look at the requirements of Chapter 7 of the 2018 International Building Code® (IBC) for protection of fire door and fire window assemblies. For each topic, the program includes a discussion of code requirements, the referenced standards, the testing process, the available methods of demonstrating code compliance, the installation process and the inspection process. In addition, it will cover the maintenance requirements for the International Fire Code® (IFC) and NFPA 80.

Instructor: Rich Walke (Creative Technology, Inc.)

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

TRACK 7 – MULTI-DISCIPLINARY: BUILDING AND PLUMBING

MONDAY 2/9/2026

Review of MN Plumbing Code

Session 671

This course will review MN code requirements for plumbing fixture counts and how they affect DWV sizing. The presentation will also cover the requirements for relief vents and the proper installation of island fixture vent systems. Lastly, the presentation will review when expansion tanks are required for water heaters and recent information on Legislation as it pertains to them.

Instructor: Randy R. Lorge (IAPMO)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

Mechanical Plan Review & Inspections (commercial focus)

Session 672

This presentation will guide the user through a mechanical plan review by identifying the specific uses of the space within the structure, show you how to complete simple ventilation and volume calculations, and detect conventional plan review submittal deficiencies. Attendees will be able to familiarize themselves with field inspection techniques and discover creative compliance alternatives.

Instructor: Kirk Luthe (City of Rochester)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

2024 IMC & IFGC Combustion Air & Venting

Session 673

This course reviews and analyzes selected requirements for combustion air & venting systems. Participants will discuss and learn about the purpose and content of combustion air & venting systems contained in the 2024 IFGC and 2024 IMC.

Instructor: Lisa Reiheld (ICC)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

AM: Design and Maintenance of Firestop Systems

Session 674

This presentation will provide a detailed review of how through- and membrane-penetrations in fire-resistance-rated assemblies are protected following the Design, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance (DIIM) concept. It includes an in-depth review of code requirements, testing procedures, what materials and components make up a firestop systems, how to use the UL Product IQ online directory to locate code compliant systems, and how to insure that the firestop system is installed as a "complete assembly."

PM: Field Engineering Services

Have you ever been faced with the issue of a product required to be labeled not bearing the label, or a labeled product has been modified in the field, or a fire-resistance-rated assembly, fire stop system or joint system has not been constructed in accordance with the design or system? Learn how these common field issues can be resolved through Field Engineering Services offered by the various Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories.

Instructor: Rich Walke (Creative Technology, Inc.)

FRIDAY 2/13/2026

2024 IRC Performing Residential Mechanical & Plumbing Inspections

Session 675

This course reviews the plumbing and mechanical requirements of the 2024 International Residential Code® (IRC). The details provided will enhance your understanding of plumbing and mechanical terminology, equipment, materials and methods of installation as related to residential construction. It covers the minimum requirements for residential plumbing and residential mechanical inspections. You will also discuss major portions of a residential plan. Participants will also participate in activities that involve a checklist for performing residential plumbing inspections.

Instructor: Jerry Flanik (ICC)

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

TRACK 8 – MINNESOTA FOCUS

MONDAY 2/9/2026

CCLD Update & 2024 Accessibility Session 681

This session will begin with a 90-minute segment that provides updates to all attendees regarding the activities that DLI is working on and involved in that affect the built environment and all those who work in it. The update will include information on code updates and other topics that are important to all building officials and the work that they do. The second segment of the seminar will provide the attendees with updated information as it pertains to changes for the accessibility requirements of the Code including updates on Adult Changing stations and more.

Instructors: Greg Metz (CCLD/DOLI), Karen Gridley (MN Department of Labor and Industry)

TUESDAY 2/10/2026

Top Ten Topics That have an Impact on Energy Session 682

As we start the journey for energy efficiency, what are the concepts within the energy codes that have the biggest impact on energy efficiency. We will take a look at the top ten items in the residential energy code and commercial energy code to ensure as we become more proficient with gaining compliance the big-ticket items are starting us off. Join us to find out what the heavy hitters for energy efficiency are.

Instructor: Hope Medina & Josh Harmon (Shums Coda)

WEDNESDAY 2/11/2026

AM: Contractor Licensing & Enforcement Session 683

Attendees will get information to provide them with a better understanding of the requirements for Licensing, Registration, and Certifications. Participants will gain a better understanding of the Department's Enforcement Authority, statistics, types of actions taken, the investigative process and notable closed investigations.

PM: Manufactured Structures

This program will discuss three types of manufactured structures, the code that applies, and where to find the information addressing these three different types of manufactured structures. These structures must meet one of the three codes to allow them to be used in Minnesota: meet MN Rules Chapter 1350, a Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program, be certified as a prefabricated building in accordance with MN Rules Chapter 1360 or be an industrialized/modular building in accordance with Mn Rules 1361.

Instructor: Herman Hauglid (MN DLI)

THURSDAY 2/12/2026

Commercial Inspections Session 684

This is a continuation of last year's well received presentation, picking up where we left off and adding yet more issues that code officials face every day that don't necessarily have a clear code answer. The course will focus on complex issues in the building, fire, mechanical, plumbing, housing and accessibility code and potential (sometimes creative) solutions.

Instructor: Jerry Norman & James Coyle

All classes are on-site with a select few that are also Virtual – .

ICC UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGION III EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE | FEBRUARY 2026

TRACK	Monday Feb. 9	Tuesday Feb. 10	Wednesday Feb. 11	Thursday Feb. 12	Friday Feb. 13
Track 1 Code Compliance and Professional Development	SESSION 611 Strategic Leadership: Building a Code Enforcement Legacy <i>Ed Nichols, Jr.</i>	SESSION 612 AM – Housing Inspections 101 PM – Identifying & Understanding Hoarding Disorder <i>Greg Smith</i>	SESSION 613 Effective Inspection Programs <i>Marcus Kellum</i>	SESSION 614 Legal, Ethical and Moral Code Enforcement <i>Marcus Kellum</i>	SESSION 615 AM – Non-Verbal Communication PM – Building Strong Habits <i>Mitch Hammes</i>
Track 2 Building: The Basics	SESSION 621 Plan Review Skills <i>John Gibson</i>	SESSION 622 Field Inspections: 2024 IRC <i>Russell Thornburg</i>	SESSION 623 Roof to Soil: Essentials of Building Load Transfer, Design and Inspection <i>Russell Thornburg</i>	SESSION 624 Notable IRC Changes: 2018 to 2024 <i>Russell Thornburg</i>	SESSION 625 2024 IRC Building Safety Features <i>Sandra Hyde</i>
Track 3 Building: General Topics	SESSION 631 Wall Bracing and Truss Bracing <i>Nick Gilliland</i>	SESSION 632 2024 IBC Means of Egress <i>Doug Thornburg</i>	SESSION 633 B3 Building Plans Examiner Academy Day 1 <i>Jerry Flanik</i>	SESSION 634 B3 Building Plans Examiner Academy Day 2 <i>Jerry Flanik</i>	SESSION 635 AM – 2024 IBC Exit Systems PM – 2024 IBC Mixed Occupancies <i>Doug Thornburg</i>
Track 4 Building: Essentials to Know	SESSION 641 Podium Type Buildings-Issues and Solutions <i>Steve Thomas</i>	SESSION 642 Advanced Studies of the IBC <i>Steve Thomas</i>	ALSO VIRTUAL SESSION 643 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction <i>Steve Thomas</i>	SESSION 644 2024 IBC Assembly Spaces <i>Doug Thornburg</i>	ALSO VIRTUAL SESSION 645 2024 IBC Significant Changes <i>John Gibson</i>
Track 5 Building: Specific Concerns	ALSO VIRTUAL SESSION 651 2024 IBC Transition from the 2018 IBC <i>George Reid</i>	ALSO VIRTUAL SESSION 652 2024 IRC Transition from the 2018 IRC <i>John Gibson</i>	SESSION 653 2024 IRC Decks, What's New <i>Glenn Mathewson</i>	SESSION 654 Porch Roof Design and Plan Review <i>Glenn Mathewson</i>	SESSION 655 2024 IBC Care Facilities <i>Roger Axel</i>

Sessions begin at 8 am CT unless otherwise noted.

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TRACK	Monday Feb. 9	Tuesday Feb. 10	Wednesday Feb. 11	Thursday Feb. 12	Friday Feb. 13
Track 6 Multi-Disciplinary: Building and Fire	SESSION 661 Fire Sprinkler Systems: Sprinkler Equipment <i>John Swanson</i>	SESSION 662 Fire Sprinkler System Plan Review <i>John Swanson</i>	SESSION 663 Standpipes for Fire Protection <i>Chase Browning</i>	SESSION 664 Rough and Final Inspections of Sprinkler Systems <i>Chase Browning</i>	SESSION 665 AM – Firestop Systems PM – Protect your Openings Fire Door and Fire Window Assemblies <i>Rich Walke</i>
Track 7 Multi-Disciplinary: Building and Plumbing	SESSION 671 Review of MN Plumbing Code <i>Randy Lorge</i>	SESSION 672 Mechanical Plan Review & Inspections (commercial focus) <i>Kirk Luthe</i>	SESSION 673 2024 IMC & IFGC Combustion Air & Venting <i>Jerry Flanik</i>	SESSION 674 AM – Design and Maintenance of Firestop Systems PM – Field Engineering Services <i>Rich Walke</i>	SESSION 675 2024 IRC Performing Residential Mechanical & Plumbing Inspections <i>Jerry Flanik</i>
Track 8 Minnesota Focus	ALSO VIRTUAL SESSION 681 CCLD Update & 2024 Accessibility <i>Greg Metz, CCLD/DOLI</i> <i>Karen Gridley, MN Department of Labor and Industry</i>	SESSION 682 Top Ten Topics That have an Impact on Energy <i>Hope Medina & Josh Harmon</i>	SESSION 683 AM: Contractor Licensing & Enforcement PM: Manufactured Structures <i>Herman Hauglid</i>	ALSO VIRTUAL SESSION 684 Commercial Inspections <i>Jerry Norman & James Coyle</i>	

Sessions begin at 8 am CT unless otherwise noted.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.iccsafe.org/RegionIII

Early bird pricing ends Monday, January 12, 2026

Thank You!

It takes extensive teamwork and cooperation to create a successful event such as the February Institute. We recognize the work of many who are involved in the event.

- AMBO Board of Directors
- Region III Chapter of ICC
- Education Planning Committee
- International Code Council
- Class Instructors
- Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry
- Trade Show Coordinators, Vendors and Supporters
- Minneapolis Marriott Hotel
- Encore AV Team

*And a special **Thank You to all the attendees!** This event would not be possible without your continued support of the education and networking opportunities.*

2026 ICC Region III Upper Great Plains Educational Institute

February 9-13, 2026



Download Your Session Handouts



NOTE: Printed handouts will not be available on-site.

Easy and Convenient Way to Access Your Session Materials!

Handouts will be available for download on February 3, 2026.

Visit: [Region III Handouts Page](#)

Password: 26region3

Session Handouts are Organized by Track, then Day, then Session Number & Title.

Download and Print to bring to class or to retain for reference.

Follow along on your device during the session.

Thank you for your support of AMBO, ICC, and Region III!