



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor, and members of the City Council

THROUGH: Crystal Dyches, City Manager

CC: Robert Nilles, Deputy City Manager

FROM: Jorge Gastelum, Development Services Director/City Engineer 
Brigham Bennett, Building Official 

SUBJECT: 2018 International Building and Fire Code Adoption with Local Amendments

DATE: April 20, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The adoption of the 2018 I-Codes will replace the 2012 I-Codes, as the currently adopted building and fire codes in the City of El Mirage. The 2012 I-Codes have been in effect in El Mirage since 2014.

BACKGROUND

The International Code Council (ICC) was incorporated in 2003 at the request of the design and construction industry to develop a single set of comprehensive national model building and fire codes. Three regional building codes had been in use for more than 50 years previous to that time. The ICC strives to develop building and fire codes that are innovative and coordinated, efficient and effective, economically viable and practical.

The City of El Mirage has utilized the International Building and Fire Codes since the 2003 Edition. The ICC publishes a new edition of the I-Codes every three years. The I-Codes are the most widely used model building and fire codes in municipalities throughout Maricopa County, Arizona and the United States. The I-Codes have also been adopted the US Military and by countries in South America, throughout the Caribbean, in Europe and in Saudi Arabia. Building Safety and Fire Prevention staff have worked collaboratively with other municipalities in the region to develop the proposed local amendments. These local amendments utilize regional best practices and are also developed to comply with Federal law, the Arizona Revised Statutes and the requirements of Maricopa County.

IMPLEMENTATION

The building and fire code adoption process requires the approval of the City Council to become effective by ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

Building Safety and Fire Prevention Staff recommend the adoption of the 2018 I-Codes with local amendments to become the currently adopted building and fire codes in the City of El Mirage on July 1, 2023. The adoption of the ordinance can become effective in as soon as 30 days from approval, but staff feels this longer lead time to implementation is appropriate and helpful to our strategic development partners as they prepare upcoming projects for vertical construction.