



November 2013

NSHBA NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 4th-8th, 2014
IBS Show
Las Vegas
- March 5, 2014
NSHBA Annual
Legislative Dinner
Wilderness Ridge Lodge
6:00pm Cocktails
7:00pm Dinner

Go to NSHBA.org for full calendar.

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HAZCOM TRAINING

REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 13th

OSHA Mandatory Training Deadline December 1st, 2013

[Page 2 for Details](#)

WELCOME NEW NSHBA MEMBERS

Membership Mania - We are in the 11th month of our year long membership effort in the state of Nebraska. Retention is also very important. We have two more months to reach our goal in the state of 100 new members. Only 50 days to report members in 2013. The Nebraska State Home Builders Association is working hard to make sure that your members are getting value through their membership. Our upcoming training sessions on HAZCOM are invaluable to the members. Training will continue throughout 2014. Those members who are thinking of signing up for the Safety Management Program will be happy to know that this next year will include the weekly "Tool Box" training talks for employers to use in the workplace. We are actively working to insure that the ICC Code changes do not negatively impact the recovery of our industry. Our monthly newsletters keep members up to date on many issues from local to state to national. **Sign up those new members prior to 12/31/13 to save the \$16.00 dues increase from NAHB.**



MEMBERS
HELPING
MEMBERS

NSHBA is still offering \$20 to each recruiter who brings in a new builder or associate member until December 31st. \$5.00 for each new member will go to the HBA of that member.

MEMBERSHIP MANIA

You could get your membership in 2013 for free.....Just bring in new members.

NSHBA LEGISLATIVE DINNER - MARCH 5TH, 2014 Wilderness Ridge Lodge, Lincoln, Nebraska

Members, please block Wednesday, March 5th on your calendars for the Annual NSHBA Legislative Dinner. Once again, this event will be held at the Wilderness Ridge Lodge in Lincoln, Nebraska. All members and their spouses are welcome to attend this important dinner where our members will have an opportunity to speak one on one with our state senators. If you know your state senator, please encourage them to attend this dinner. Details will follow in the January newsletter. Your local association will be coordinating tables for March 5th, 2014.

November is Spike Appreciation Month

November is designated as Spike Appreciation Month, a celebration dedicated to recognizing the ongoing efforts of one of the most active and dedicated groups in our membership. You can view a special video message from NAHB Chairman Rick Judson honoring our spikes [here](#).
Contact: [Christopher Driver](#) (800-368-5242 x8347).

Win a 2014 IBS Registration, Travel Expenses to Las Vegas and an iPad Mini

The [NAHB International Builders' Show](#) (IBS) and [Fine Homebuilding magazine](#) are giving away five new iPad minis, plus a one-year subscription to Fine Homebuilding magazine. Plus, one lucky winner will also win the grand prize that includes complimentary registration to the IBS plus \$2,500 to cover travel expenses to Las Vegas. The contest ends December 15, so visit [Fine Homebuilding's Facebook contest page](#) today to enter.

NSHBA/SMI SAFETY PROGRAM

HAZCOM TRAINING

REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 13th

email: nhomebuilders@windstream.net
or nhomebuilders@neb.rr.com

November 19th, 2:00pm
Platte Valley State Bank, Lower Level
2223 2nd Ave
Kearney, NE

November 22nd, 2:00pm
The Northeast Community College,
Utility Line building (room 120)
1601 East Benjamin Ave
Norfolk, NE
(It is located east of the main campus.)

No Cost to SMI/NSHBA
Partners

NSHBA-members - \$25.00

Non-Members - \$50.00

Checks payable to NSHBA
1327 H Street, Ste 309,
Lincoln, NE 68508

Under the new standard, employers are required to train workers by December 1, 2013 on the new labels elements and safety data sheets format to facilitate recognition and understanding.

SMI has developed a comprehensive training presentation that satisfies OSHA's requirements. The training focuses on the new labels elements and the new safety data sheet format. All participants will be required to complete a quiz to verify understanding of the new standard and its components. This documentation will be provided to each company to be kept on file to demonstrate compliance with OSHA's training requirement.



NSHBA's Safety Partner



WASHINGTON UPDATE:

Silica Rule has Potential \$2 Billion Impact: Member Input Requested

All NAHB members should be aware of a potentially very costly rule that OSHA has recently proposed for regulating workers' exposure to crystalline silica on jobsites. (Silica occurs in many commonly used building products, from concrete to mortar, stucco, bricks, and fiber cement board, and is therefore omnipresent on most construction sites.) OSHA's proposed rule sets a new "permissible exposure limit" and requires specific work practices like wet-cutting bricks and concrete, as well as conducting special training, extensive medical surveillance and recordkeeping. NAHB's Construction Safety & Health Committee is taking a very close look at this proposal and needs YOUR help before the Dec. 11 deadline for public comments. While OSHA believes the rule will cost about \$640 million for businesses to comply with, independent studies have suggested that number is much too low -- and in fact could run as high as TWO BILLION dollars. While it is in everyone's interest to keep workers safe and healthy, such a costly regulation clearly could endanger jobs, and result in adding hundreds — or even thousands — of dollars to the cost of a home. **NAHB members are therefore urged to visit NAHB.org/silica to learn more, and to [read the rule](#) with an eye to its cost implications for your business. Then, contact [Robert Matuga](#) (800-368-5242 x8507) with your comments prior to the Dec. 11 deadline.** NAHB is working with a coalition of construction trade associations on this issue, and your input will help our efforts to ensure that the final silica rule is cost-effective, reasonable and workable on all construction sites while at the same time ensuring the highest level of worker safety.

Keep up to Date on Construction Liability, Risk Management Issues

NAHB's Legal Services team wants you to know that they have recently completed and published [Vol. 3 of the Construction Liability and Risk Management Update](#). In this edition, readers will find information on a Texas Supreme Court decision in which a home builder's \$6 million verdict was reinstated in an insurance coverage case. Also discussed is a class action lawsuit filed in Florida alleging that air conditioning units manufactured by Goodman and Amana are defective, plus a California decision finding the "right to repair" statute is not the only remedy for construction defect claims. In addition, the publication provides industry reports and analyses on applying eminent domain to underwater mortgages, a GAO report on imported drywall from China, and more. Previous issues of our [Construction Liability and Risk Management Updates](#) are also available online, or by contacting [David Jaffe](#) (800-368-5242 x8317).

Water Resources Bill will Help Building Projects Move Forward

NAHB-supported measure will authorize water resources development and conservation projects in communities across the nation. [Read more...](#)

NAHB Joins the Fight Against a State Permitting Plan that Could Add \$10,000 to the Cost of Lots

NAHB Legal Action Committee helps builders and HBAs to level the playing field. [Read more...](#)

Federal Roundup: Flood Insurance Fix, Government Breaks Up LEED Monopoly, Temporary Worker Program, and More

View the latest developments from Washington and how they impact the housing industry. [Read more...](#)

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WASHINGTON UPDATE – NAHB ARTICLE:

2015 ICC Hearings: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Final actions on more than 2,000 proposed code changes for the 2015 editions of the International Code Council's International Residential Code (IRC), International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), and other I-Codes were decided following nine days of hearings earlier this month in Atlantic City, N.J. NAHB scored some impressive wins but also suffered some unfortunate setbacks.

The Good

The NAHB Construction, Codes and Standards staff and builder volunteers provided excellent testimony at the hearings, and NAHB was successful on 85% of the hundreds of proposals that the association supported or opposed for the 2015 IRC.

Of particular importance to the home building community are five key proposals that NAHB fought against to keep building codes flexible, cost effective and product-neutral. NAHB's success on these proposals represents total construction savings of up to \$40,000 per house:

Additional Requirements for Exterior Foam Plastics. A proposal was disapproved that would have required all single-family homes or townhouses with foam plastics in the wall or roof system within 10 feet of the property line to be protected on both the interior and the exterior by a thermal barrier. It also prohibited the use of any siding that includes foam insulation as a backer product.

Had this proposal been approved, it would have required builders to sheath the entire exterior of their homes in a layer of drywall or wood sheathing, or maintain a distance of 10 feet from all property lines. In some cases, this could have resulted in an additional cost of up to \$20,000 per home.

Additional Stairs and Ramps. A proposal that would have required all single-family homes and townhouses with multiple levels to have a stair or ramp within 50 feet of any habitable portion of the home was disapproved. The 2012 IRC requires a single stairway or ramp to connect all habitable levels. If approved, the proposal could have cost builders anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per home.

Residential Accessibility. A proposal was disapproved that would have required all one- and two-family homes to be designed so people with disabilities could enter unassisted, have a zero-clearance entrance, an elevator or lift, an accessible bathroom, bedroom and (if on the accessible level) a kitchen with 40 inches of clear floor space at all counters. If approved, the cost of compliance would have been \$2,000 to \$3,000 per house.

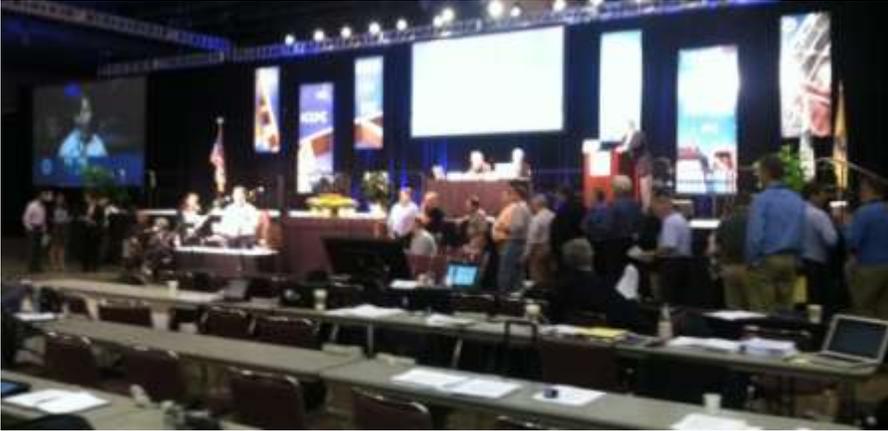
Wood Deck General Provisions. Expanded provisions for constructing wood decks were approved in Atlantic City. Among provisions that were considered but were ultimately disapproved were guard post, stair stringer and lateral connection requirements that would have added at least \$300 in additional hardware costs. Also, provisions that could have led to engineering being required for decks were limited in scope or defeated, saving approximately \$1,000 in engineering design costs per home.

Foundation Walls in Flood Zones. A proposal that would have required reinforced short stem walls in riverine flood zones (FEMA Zone A) was disapproved. Cost savings are in the range of \$300 to \$1,000 per house, depending on height and total length of walls.

Continued.....2015 ICC Hearings: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

"The staff members from the NAHB Construction, Codes and Standards Department fought day in and day out on behalf of everyone in the residential construction industry," said Lee Schwartz, vice president of government affairs for the HBA of Michigan. "It's not just the ICC hearings where these unsung warriors do battle; it's at the NFPA, ASHRAE, ASTM, NFRC, ANSI and IAPMO committee meetings and hearings as well. Without their hard work and support, Michigan would not have won the code victories that we achieved in our state."

The Bad



Builders, code officials line up to testify in favor of energy efficiency trade-offs.

builders, NAHB staff and building officials.

While NAHB posted resounding victories for the 2015 edition of the IRC, only about 60% of the changes proposed in favor of cost-effective, energy-efficient new homes were approved for the 2015 IECC.

Key proposals to restore mechanical equipment trade-offs, and to provide trade-offs for building tightness and window area, were soundly defeated despite testimony from dozens of

"To date, six states have adopted the 2012 IECC and only one state has adopted it without reduced stringency," said Pennsylvania home builder Frank Thompson. "Clearly there is a disconnect between the model codes and what jurisdictions are willing to adopt."

"We need to be able to determine what is the best alternative for our customers," added Michigan home builder Don Pratt, who also serves as chairman of the NAHB Construction, Codes and Standards Committee.

The Ugly

Trade-offs are energy-neutral by definition and allow builders and their customers to make choices based on affordability, marketability, or just plain personal preference. Unfortunately, there was concerted effort by opponents of home builders to maintain the reduced flexibility of the 2012 IECC and mandate that builders meet the stringent requirement of the energy code without exception.

For instance, another energy-neutral proposal to allow a builder to get credit in the performance path of the code when installing solar panels was disapproved, with opponents arguing that builders could possibly skimp on insulation to save money.

The idea that a builder or home owner would spend tens of thousands of dollars on photovoltaic panels to save money on electricity costs and not appropriately insulate is simply ludicrous.

Common-sense proposals to improve the flexibility, cost-effectiveness and product neutrality of the energy codes were too often thwarted by a coalition of energy-efficiency advocates funded by those businesses with the most to

Continued---...2015 ICC Hearings: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

gain from more stringent codes.

Product manufacturers also sent representatives to the hearings as well, and some of them gleefully admitted that the results would enable them to sell more insulation, windows or other products. These advocates – many of whom have never even set foot on a job site or know anything about how a home is actually built – talked in the abstract and called these code proposals "rollbacks."

Despite the best efforts of NAHB staff, home builders from across the nation who volunteered their time, and building officials who attended the hearings, they were ultimately unable to compete with those who fought against cost-effective and sensible code proposals.

Too many building officials did not have the funds or time to come to Atlantic City on a weekend to vote in favor of energy code changes that were necessary, practical and cost-effective. Consequently, eligible voters not involved with code enforcement influenced many of the critical proposals that were meant to fix the broken 2012 IECC.

Despite these setbacks, NAHB was still able to hold its own as the 2015 residential energy requirements will not be more stringent than the 2012 and could actually turn out to be a bit less stringent.

Moreover, adoption of the 2012 IECC is facing unprecedented resistance at the local level. State and local jurisdictions adopt building codes, and performance matters. Building officials from across the nation are unlikely to implement the 2015 IECC without significant amendments because it is too difficult to put into practice and too expensive to use.

Expanding Opportunities for Associate Members to Serve in Leadership Roles

At its recent meeting, the NAHB Board of Directors approved bylaws changes that will allow associate members to chair key national committees and to serve as the chief elected officers of local associations. Specifically, the Education and Public Affairs Committees are now included in the list of committees that can be chaired or vice-chaired by Associate Members; the Executive Board now has the authority to permit Associate Member chairmen for any council; and Associate Members may also serve as chairman or vice chairman of the Associate Members, Design and Membership Committees.

The Board of Directors also modified the composition requirements for local association boards of directors by authorizing Associate Members to serve in any officer position, including president or chairman. NAHB's bylaws now require that the majority of the corporate officers and members of an affiliated local association's board of directors be builder members. As a result of this modification, most affiliated local associations will need to amend their own bylaws if they wish to have an associate serve in an officer position.

The Board of Directors also approved changing the name of the Building Product Issues Committee to the Construction Liability, Risk Management and Building Materials Committee in order to more accurately reflect its mission and scope of work, which have evolved since the committee was formed in 1998. Contact: [Jim Rizzo](#); 800-368-5242, x8345.

Industry
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
NEWS UPDATE

'Who Pays America's Federal Taxes?'

Did you know 74% of U.S. income taxes are paid by those over age 45? Did you know 10% of taxpayers pay 70% of all federal income taxes, while the bottom 50% of taxpayers contribute 2.4%? Were you aware U.S. corporations currently face the highest corporate tax in the world -- nearly 40%? And did you know the U.S. currently provides \$1.2 trillion in federal tax breaks -- 91% of which go to individuals? The Tax Foundation has published a compelling compilation of charts that put a human face on federal tax returns and Uncle Sam's revenue stream. With talk of tax reform in D.C., this is recommended reading for anyone who wants to be armed with the facts. See the document at <http://taxfoundation.org/slideshow/putting-face-americas-tax-returns>.

'House will take up ObamaCare fix next week'

(Roll Call) -- RollCall.com reports the House will vote next week on the "Keep Your Health Plan Act of 2013," which is sponsored by House Energy and Commerce Chair Fred Upton (R-Mich.). It "would allow insurance companies to continue offering the old plans." According to Roll Call, the vote "could present a challenge for a Democratic Caucus" and "the Blue Dog Democrats who typically side with Republicans on anti-ObamaCare votes." The bill "was introduced in response to revelations that millions of Americans have had insurance plans canceled recently."

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/218/house-to-take-up-obamacare-fix-bill-next-week/>

'OSHA wants to force businesses to make injury records public'

(Wall Street Journal) -- WSJ.com reports that OSHA is set to propose a rule that would require companies with more than 250 employees to make their worker illness and injury records public. The proposal would require companies to file electronic-injury and illness reports, which the public, researchers, company employees, other companies, and public officials could access. Marc Freedman with the U.S. Chamber said industry groups would likely protest the proposed new rule. He worries that "unions or others might use the access to company records to push an agenda, when the injury data may not provide a complete picture of workplace safety."

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304672404579182480900278574>

Did Someone Say Opportunity? – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2014 IBS – Feb. 4th-8th To Register - www.buildersshow.com

NAHB is gearing up for its biggest show in recent years. They have partnered up with KBIS, the kitchen and bath show and expect hundreds of exhibitors to sign on. Both shows will be under one roof and will be one price included in your registration. Sign up now to get a reduced rate.

The Nebraska hotel will be the Mirage. NSHBA has obtained a block of rooms at \$125.00 per night. The Mirage is on the strip and is located across the street from the tram. Log on at

www.buildersshow.com to register. **Take an IBS Pre-Show Course and take home the biggest souvenir of all: knowledge to boost your sales and marketing education—and your business.**

http://www.buildersshow.com/generic.aspx?sectionID=2002&utm_source=magnetmail&utm_medium=email1c&utm_campaign=2014-ibspreshow

Call for Entries: NAHB SAFE Awards Single-Family Category

Each year NAHB recognizes home building industry professionals who take the extra step to ensure that their worksites are safe. The NAHB/Builders Mutual Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) acknowledges and honors individuals for developing and implementing high-quality, innovative, worksite safety programs.

If you are a single-family home builder and have a successful worksite safety program in place, we encourage you to submit an application in the [Single-Family Builder Safety Program of the Year](#) category. Other categories of interest include [Innovative Safety Program/Idea of the Year](#) and [NAHB Safety Professional of the Year](#).

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The Nebraska Energy Office, along with Dupont Tyvek is pleased to announce the following free training session:

Designing and Building Efficient, Durable and Cost-Effective Homes

The latest versions of Energy Codes push homes to consistently higher efficiencies. Some of the new insulation and air sealing requirements have raised concern that the new efficiency levels might create or contribute to durability problems. Steve Easley will discuss innovative approaches to building high performing homes that meet or exceed code requirements. This class will focus on best practice methods and designs, developed in conjunction with building scientists, that control thermal losses as well as provide water and moisture management. Steve will address how to use familiar construction materials that meet code requirements as well as address construction performance concerns.

For more information, call Danielle Jensen or Lynn Chamberlin at [402.471.2867](tel:402.471.2867). The session is FREE, but registration is REQUIRED.

Future trainings:

2012 IECC, RESCheck, and additional Building Science with Steve Easley. If your company is interested in co-sponsorship opportunities, please contact Danielle Jensen at [402.471.2867](tel:402.471.2867).

Information on Energy Efficient New Homes and Loans

Nebraska Energy Efficient Housing Application New Home Construction Application

<http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/pdf/formM10.pdf>

Energy Efficient Housing Application Guidelines

<http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/pdf/EnergyEfficientHousingApplicationGuidelines.pdf>

Home Energy Rating System

<http://www.neo.ne.gov/hers/hers.htm>

Compliance Guide for Homes in Nebraska

http://www.neo.ne.gov/home_const/iecc/documents/ComplianceGuide2009IECC.pdf

Minimum, Better, Best: Building Technology for Your New Home

http://www.nppd.com/assets/building_technology_options.pdf



NEBRASKA STATE HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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NAHB State Representative

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Boost Profits with New Sales Skills

You don't need a big budget to build a bigger audience. Try [these four tips](#) from *Sales + Marketing Ideas Magazine*.

You can also try one of many [IBS Pre-Show Courses](#) that help housing sales and marketing professionals make the most of every minute and every lead. Get more for your time and money by boosting your knowledge, with courses like:

- [Certified New Homes Professional \(CSP\)](#)
- [Marketing & Communications Strategies for Aging and Accessibility \(CAPS I\)](#)
- [Sales and Marketing for Remodelers](#)
- [And many more...](#)

Going green? Take your business into a sustainable, more profitable future with:

- [Advanced Green Building: Building Science](#)
- [Advanced Green Building: Project Management](#)
- [Green Building for Building Professionals](#)

Nowhere else during the year will you find all these courses in one place at one time. Plus enjoy networking and business insights from your peers. Come build a better you! [Register today.](#)

Education: NAHB – Webinar Wednesdays

Multifamily and the National Green Building Standard: A Recipe for Success

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
Business Improvement series

www.nahb.org/webinars - -
see other webinars available in coming months.

Courses:
www.nahb.org/courses.

Designations:
www.nahb.org/designations

NSHBA Mission Statement

The Nebraska State Home Builders Association represents the residential and light commercial building industry at the state level and assists local associations and individual members by pursuing a suitable environment to ensure the vitality of the building industry for the benefit of its members, and to promote quality & affordable housing for the people of Nebraska.

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Thank you NSHBA Sponsors!