



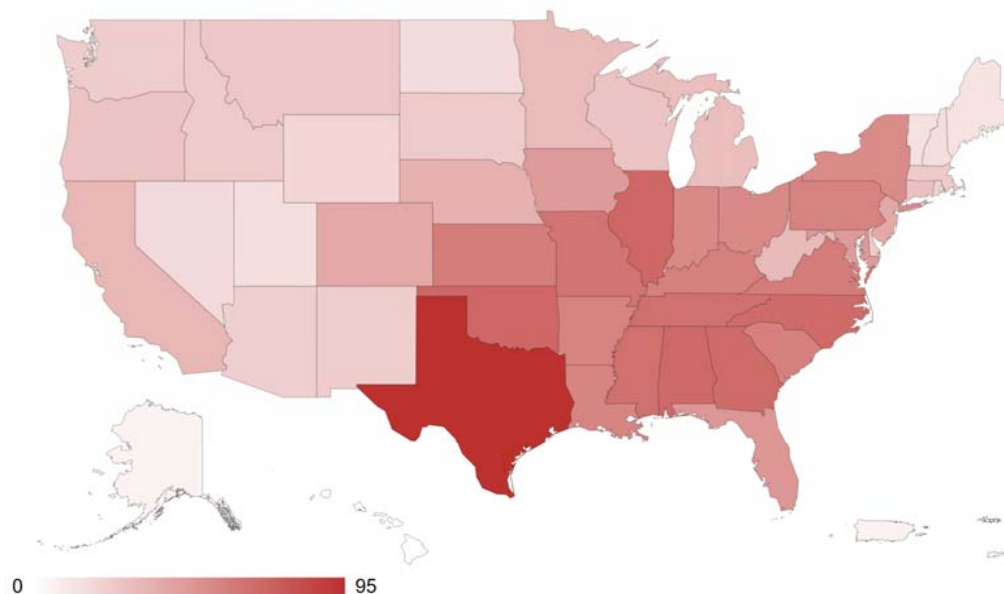
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Case Study: Texas Residential Building Codes and Potential Implications of Recent Legislation

October 26, 2017
Atlanta, Georgia

Texas: *Complex State, Complex Problems*

1980-2017* Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters By State (CPI-Adjusted)



Please note that the map reflects a summation of billion-dollar events for each state affected (i.e., it does not mean that each state shown suffered at least \$1 billion in losses for each event). [Save/Print](#)

*as of October 6, 2017

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2017). <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>

95 Billion-Dollar
Weather and Climate
Disasters
in Texas alone
as of Oct. 6, 2017

Background: *Texas State Collaborative*

What is the **Texas State Collaborative?**

A private-public collaboration formed in 2012 to address the most pressing issues affecting the Texas built environment.

A volunteer group made up of academics, building code officials, design/build associations, emergency managers, home builders, leading insurers, meteorologists, nonprofits, product manufacturers, reinsurers, and state and local government officials.

Background: *Texas State Collaborative*

- Convening question: Are Texas residential building codes good, bad, or both?
- Analysis starting point: What, if any, residential building codes are used in Texas?

Background: *Texas State Collaborative*

- Next steps: Review residential codes in ten most populous Texas cities and surrounding counties, later expanded
- Result: TSC Texas Leadership Toolkits
 - Highlight top three weather perils and top code amendments with disaster resilience significance
 - Address presence or absence of residential building codes in counties

Background: *Texas State Collaborative*

- The county issue:
 - Are residential building codes present or enforced in unincorporated areas of Texas counties?
- TRCC Remnant
- Widely held interpretation:
 - Counties have the ability to require a three-part inspection program, but builders did not need to pass inspections

Texas Building Codes: *Landscape Today*

- New Law: H.B. 2040
 - Builders must now pass inspection!
 - Much more behind the scenes
- Next steps in Texas
 - Hurricane Harvey recovery
 - No statewide residential building code – yet?
 - *The Status of Residential Building Codes in the State of Texas*
 - Cautiously optimistic

Texas: *Takeaways for Building Code Policy*

1. Awareness can breed action
2. Need continued, vigilant awareness
3. Building codes are hyperlocal
4. Don't underestimate the power of culture
5. Disaster resilience isn't a zero-sum game
6. It's a marathon, not a sprint

Thank you. Questions?

Disaster Safety: One Movement, Many Voices



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