

## [2000 International Building, Fire, Mechanical, Fuel Gas, and Residential Codes](#)

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### Brief Synopsis of Presentation:

#### **Guy Tomberlin (Fairfax County): 2000 International Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Residential Code**

Mr. Tomberlin is a code enforcement official in Fairfax County, Virginia, and serves on the International Code Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Hydrogen. This is an ICC consensus committee and is soliciting public input on proposed changes to the International, Building, Fire, Mechanical Fuel Gas, and Residential codes. He stressed the importance of gaining support for these changes. He gave some examples of opposition to their proposals, such as "elevation systems" i.e., hydrogen storage on the roofs, was eliminated because some fire marshal organizations raised issues relating to containing fire situations, and having great concerns of how to deal with hydrogen systems located on roof structures in these situations. Guy noted that there have been recently submitted "definitions" to the ICC relevant to hydrogen, and the importance of their becoming adopted in order to have those common terminology included in the model code books used today.

In general, code officials are ready to see code text relating to hydrogen technology and they support it, knowing that hydrogen infrastructure may soon to be appearing in their local jurisdiction. Currently the code official has no guidance to provide them minimum safety guidelines for coverage of hydrogen. Code officials need guidance, they don't know the technologies or how they operate. The model codes typically provide prescriptive requirements because they are easy to implement and to ensure that they have been followed. Standards sometimes contain permissive language that is subject to a broad range of interpretation and difficult to enforce, e.g., whether a requirement of "10 feet from the nearest wall" has been satisfied is easy to determine. He also included comments relating to the advantages and benefits of listing and labeling appliances, products, and equipment by nationally recognized organizations. Industry will have to become more participative in the International Code Council process in order to keep the model codebooks updated.

Mr. Tomberlin's presentation includes handouts of the current text changes to be submitted for approval within the ICC process, which will be heard at Ft. Worth Texas, in September, for which he was soliciting input and support from the Summit attendees.