



“Building Resiliency”  
Debra Ballen  
General Counsel





## IBHS Mission:

**“To conduct objective, scientific research to identify and promote effective actions that strengthen homes, businesses, and communities against natural disasters and other causes of loss.”**

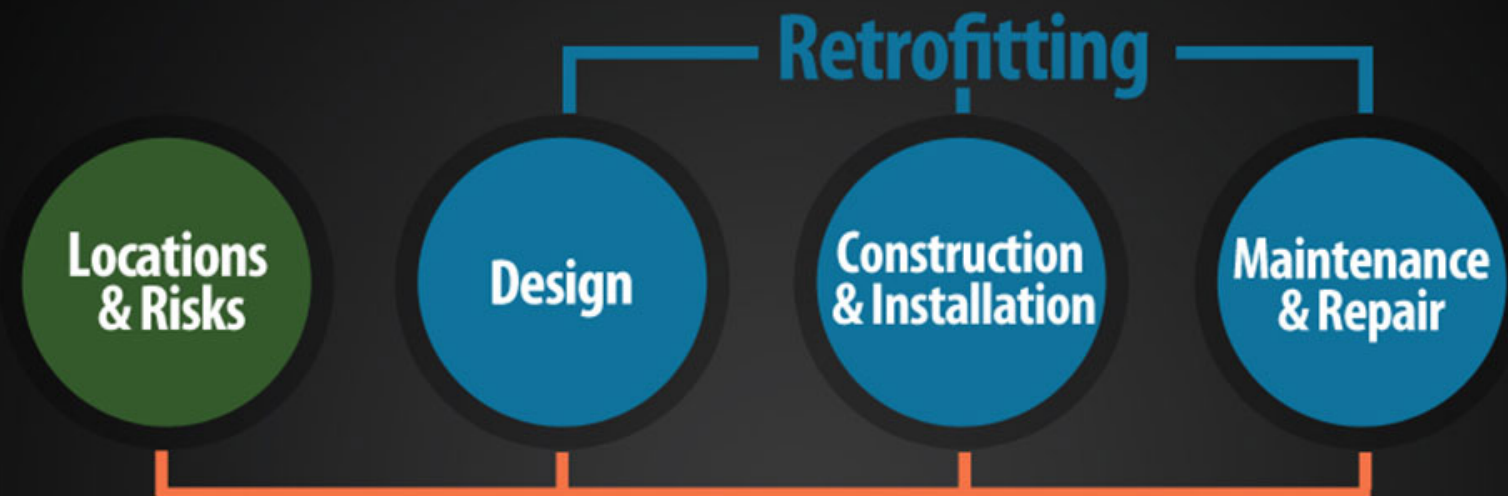


# The Building Performance Chain

**Where  
you build**

**How  
you build**

**How well you  
maintain & repair**



**Building Code Enforcement**

# We cover it all.

# IBHS Research Center



# WIND



# WILDFIRE



# HAIL



# RAIN





**Insurance  
Institute for  
Business &  
Home  
Safety**



**GOING GREEN AND BUILDING STRONG**

**Adaptation/Mitigation**

**Sustainability/Resilience**

**Lower Environmental Impacts/  
Lower Impacts of the Environment**



# Environmental Benefits

- ✓ **Less waste in landfills**
- ✓ **CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas effects of fire**
- ✓ **Wildfire → landslides → loss of vegetation**
- ✓ **Consistent with natural floodplains**
- ✓ **Carbon footprint of community reconstruction**

# Community Benefits

- ✓ Keeping communities intact
- ✓ Protecting vulnerable populations
- ✓ Maintaining the health care system
- ✓ Preserving jobs
- ✓ Saving post-disaster dollars

# High Wind Commercial Construction Test

Full-scale, strip mall-type structures



© Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Test was designed to demonstrate that building performance can be *significantly* improved in several key areas with relatively modest increases in costs.

IBHS

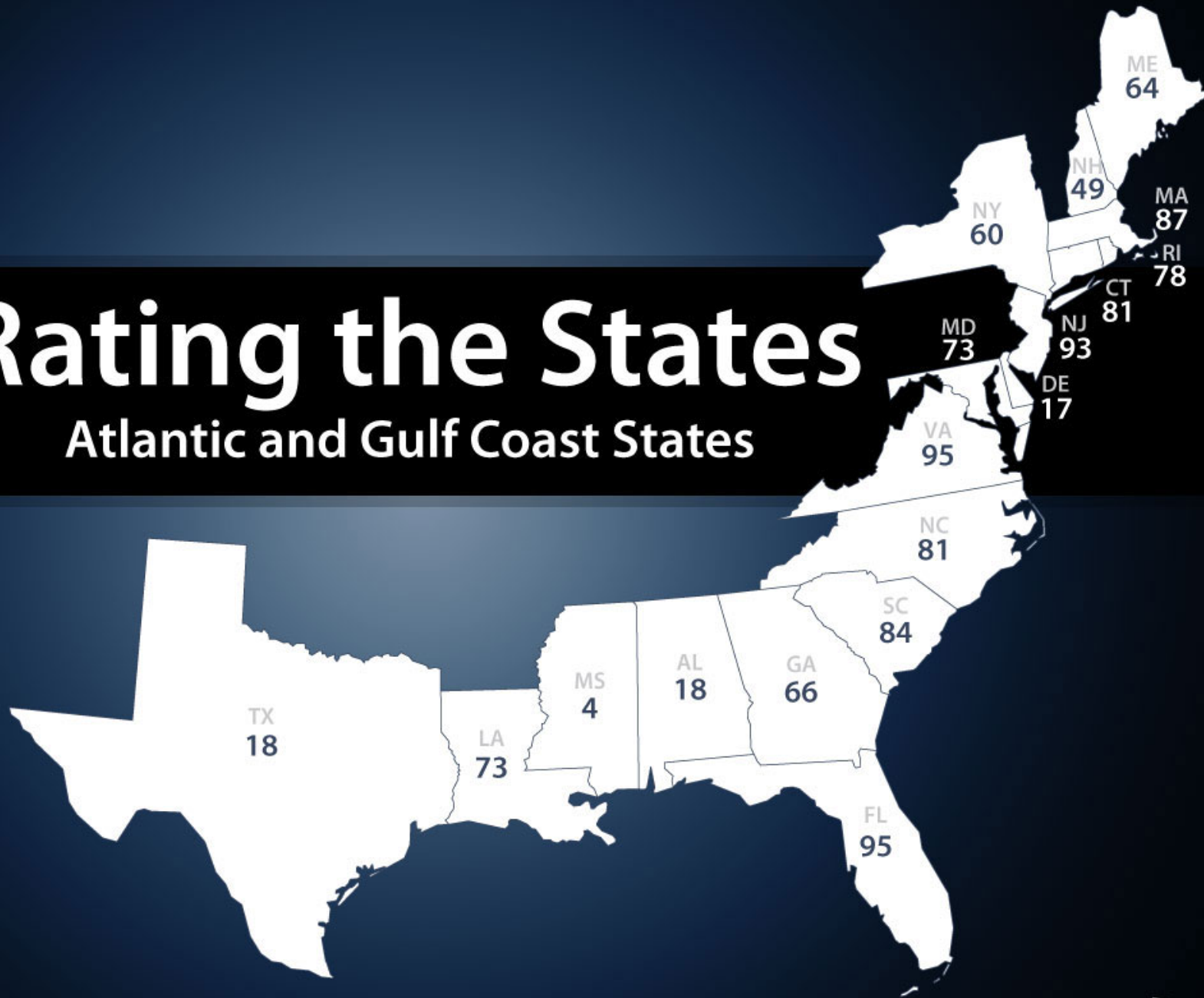
COMMON

STRONGER

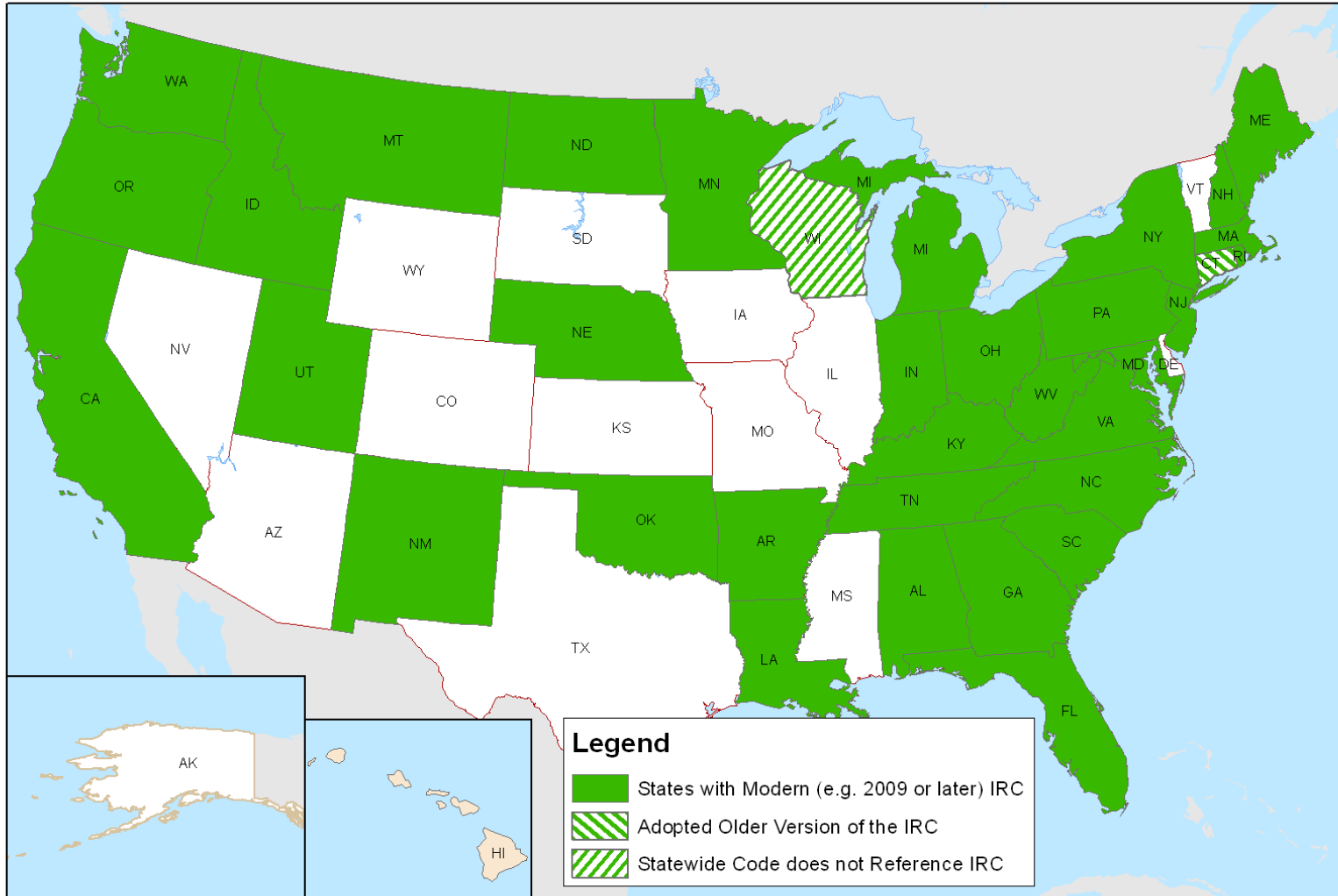


# Rating the States

Atlantic and Gulf Coast States



# States that Have Adopted a Modern International Residential Code



# Creating Fire Adapted Communities



**Traditional Neighborhood  
Post- 2007 Wildfire  
San Diego County, Calif.**



**Wildfire-adaptive Community  
Post- 2007 Wildfire  
San Diego County, Calif.**

# Pre-Hurricane Ike, Bolivar TX Fortified for Safer Living<sup>®</sup> Homes





# Post-Hurricane Ike, Bolivar TX Fortified for Safer Living<sup>®</sup> Homes



# IBHS Voluntary, Superior Construction Standards





## **Pilot Project—Gulf Coast**

- Expansion Opportunities
- Need to Identify and Enact Incentives



**Safe Building Code Incentive Act**

**Federal Incentives for Strong  
State Codes**

# Executive Order 13653

- Remove/reform barriers to investment
- Reform programs that increase vulnerability
- Support more climate resilient investments
- Create data, information, and decision support tools
- Create Council on Climate Preparedness & Resilience

# DisasterSafety.org – Your Go-To Resource for Reducing Losses



Where building safety research leads to real-world solutions.

Risks ▾

FORTIFIED

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## IBHS Wildfire Postcard

Postcard offers wildfire preparedness checklists for maintaining and retrofitting your home.