

Fortified Task Force
February 5th, 2024
1:00 P.M.
Via Zoom Format
Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed all the participants and members of the taskforce. The meeting was **called to order at 1:09 p.m.**

The Chair, Ms. Jackie Dadakis, requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: Dr Carol Friedland, Mr. Fritz Embaugh, Mr. Zach Smith, Mr. Robert Carroll, Mr. Randy Noel, Mr. Bill Pousson, Ms. Jill Maumus, Mr. Bobby Byrd, Mr. Kenneth Jones, Mr. Gary Hollander, Mr. Morgan Wood, Mr. Tom Travis (LDI Representative), Mr. Stephen Laughlin and Mr. Bill McShan.

Members Absent: None

15 members present and 0 member absent constitute a Quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. No old business- first meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review and discussion on IBHS program for Fortified construction methods.

The Chair, Ms. Dadakis, opened the meeting. She asked that the members of the task force please introduce themselves. She also asked that those participating from the public to please enter their name and affiliation in the chat box. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the purpose of the Fortified Task Force.

Ms. Dadakis, the Chair, then introduced Mr. Mark Roberts and asked if he would start his presentation. Mr. Roberts spoke on the CDP access and generally about the ICC wind zone maps and the required paths/design paths for regions where wind design is required. In meetings that will be held down the road, there will be more in-depth discussions concerning the resilience of the ICC codes as well as the Fortified programs.

Ms. Dadakis then introduced Ms. Alex Carey with IBHS. She asked for her to layout the groundwork of “What is Fortified?” What is the difference between “What is code? and What is Fortified? How can they work together? Ms. Carey shared the research behind Fortified. Fortified primarily focuses on wind both in high wind areas as well as in the hurricane regions. They can duplicate many of these high wind occurrences in their research center. There are three standards – Fortified Home, Fortified Commercial, Fortified Multifamily.

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A Fortified Roof is basically an all-design that keeps the roof on and the water out by a sealed roof design for high performing wind rated regions. She also covered Fortified Silver and Fortified Gold. Ms. Carey talked about the Fortified Home Eligibility Requirements and ineligible foundation types.

Ms. Dadakis then introduced Mr. Tom Travis, Representative for the Louisiana Department of Insurance. He spoke briefly to the task force members and the public that attended the Zoom meeting.

Mr. Travis spoke on the number of applications that have been received for the Fortified Roof Grant Program as well as how many have been approved. He also spoke that at some point the discounts received by insurers would be published, they vary between insurance companies.

Ms. Dadakis noted that the Technical Committee with the LSUCCC formed the task force to explore fortified due to the different bills that came up in the legislature last year. These bills focused around fortified and how it could be implemented in the state. Some of the standards have nothing to do with the building code and therefore helped establish the program for LDI.

Essentially the task of the council is to make the code as strong as possible while not impacting the overall economy of the state. Ultimately, the committee is hoping to use the meetings of the Fortified Task Force to provide comments and education to the legislature. The intent is to show that the code council can adopt code, and it be a living document, to continue to provide safer buildings for the residents of Louisiana.

Ms. Dadakis then opened the floor for comments and questions from the members of the task force. Ms. Carol Friedland from the LSU AgCenter was asked to provide a presentation at the next task force meeting. There were several points and concerns brought up by the members that will be discussed in future meetings.

The next meeting will be around the first week of March.

Ms. Dadakis asked if there was any other discussion. With no other items on the agenda or discussion, a motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Fritz Embaugh and Mr. Zach Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 PM.

END OF MINUTES