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Code professionals ensure building safety today, for a stronger tomorrow. As the individuals behind modern codes and standards, these professionals are responsible for ensuring the safety and compliance of codes and standards, shaping the safety of the world around us, and serve as the safety foundation for our buildings. They don't just ensure that buildings are constructed to withstand the stress of everyday use, they are behind the security and stability of every building. They specialize in preventative measures to help communities weather unforeseen natural disasters and ensure that first responders have less to worry about and can do their jobs safely. Code professionals are an essential piece in the building and construction puzzle and are engaged in the building process from the initial building plan to the finished product.

The International Code Council is a member-focused association with over 64,000 members dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. They protect the public through their commitment to building safety; enforce code compliance to empower and educate stakeholders across the built environment to embrace and integrate safety standards in their work; support economic development by making our buildings sturdier, and therefore longer lasting. Their knowledge, skills, and abilities impact every building, in every community.

The Code Council recognizes the importance of continuing to grow awareness of the important work that code professionals do and the impact they have, in the hopes of encouraging aspiring building safety professionals to join in on the building safety movement. In this exclusive feature for the Building Safety Journal, we asked Daniel Lynch, president of DJ Lynch & Associates, to share his experience in the industry, highlights of his professional career, and any insights or advice he has concerning the industry and the future of building safety.

Daniel Lynch
President
DJ Lynch & Associates
Indianapolis, Indiana, United States
International Code Council member for 10-plus years

BSJ: What was the path to your career — how and why did you pursue a profession in building safety?

Lynch: I started with my enlistment in the U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarine Force. With all the safety procedures around the SubSafe program, it was essential to do things correctly with the utmost importance given to quality, double checks and life safety.

BSJ: What three things do you need to be successful in this industry and in your profession?

Lynch: Communication, planning and successful execution.

BSJ: What role have mentors, advisors or your network played in your career?

Lynch: Those highly skilled have offered advice, have taught me, and I have been led by their leadership, experience and wisdom.

BSJ: What led you to become an ICC member?

Lynch: I have been teaching HVACR courses for more than 35 years and have heavily relied on the codes used in my instruction. It is important to stay current with code changes; that's where the International Code Council comes into play.

BSJ: Are you involved in any ICC committees or councils? Do you have any ICC certifications?

Lynch: I hold an Unrestricted HVAC license in Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia. I also hold a PMP (Project Manager Professional) certificate.

BSJ: How long have you been in the industry?

Lynch: 40-plus years.

BSJ: What major changes have you seen?

Lynch: Technology, code changes, and a lack of young adults wanting to come into the trades.

BSJ: What excites you about the future of your industry?

Lynch: New technology, equipment energy efficiencies and advances in training.

BSJ: What is one piece of advice that you would give to those starting out in the industry?

Lynch: Work hard, study and stick with a job that challenges you!

BSJ: What do you see as most surprising about the work that you do?

Lynch: The number of adults that, through training, become licensed HVACR contractors and business owners.

BSJ: What would you like to do next in your professional/personal life?

Lynch: Currently, I am retired and enjoying each moment. Although I continue teaching part-time and enjoy working with students.

BSJ: What do you enjoy doing in your leisure time?

Lynch: Swimming, pool aerobics, gardening and traveling.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title would be?

Lynch: Citizen in the background who pursued teaching life safety for his community.

There's a world of opportunity in being a member of the International Code Council. Membership provides the tools to get the most out of each workday: from discounts on essential International Codes and other publications to the best prices on top-quality training and ICC certification renewals, Code Council membership helps budgets go further. Exclusive member benefits include code advice from expert technical staff as well as access to member-exclusive news and articles at the Building Safety Journal news portal. Plus, only Code Council members vote in the ICC code development process. An online Career Center allows job postings and searches for new job opportunities — all at no additional charge.

The Code Council offers numerous councils, committees, and resources to help code professionals grow and network with colleagues. Six discipline-specific [Membership Councils](#) offer members a place to come together and be a more powerful force in shaping your association, your industry, your career, and your future. [Code Development Committees](#) are an instrumental part of the ICC code development process and are responsible for the review and evaluation of code change proposals submitted to the International Codes. [Professional Development Committees](#) serve to better align the ICC

education programs and certification programs to ensure that quality training is available to meet the needs of all members, customers and certification holders. Finally, the [Value of the Code Official](#) toolkit helps members to heighten awareness of the importance of code officials to their communities and to highlight the code official's role as a helpful advocate for community safety, health and welfare, and economic development.

To learn more about ICC membership, [click here](#), or contact ICC Member Services by [email](#) or 888-ICC-SAFE (888-422-7233) ext. 33804.