



## **TDLR FLASH** - Newsletter of the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Program

### **Welcome to the TDLR FLASH**

Our newsletter is intended to keep city officials and electricians throughout Texas informed of the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Act and TDLR's efforts to enforce the associated requirements. To receive news or updates on the electrical program you may go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.

### **2008 NEC Code Adoption & State Electrical Exams**

Effective September 1, 2008 - TDLR adopts the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) as the electrical code for the state thereby establishing the NEC 2008 as the "minimum standard" for all electrical work in Texas that is covered by the Act. All examinations for state electrical licenses offered on or after that date will be based on the 2008 NEC. The state electrical exams are available through the International Code Council (ICC). To register or find testing locations near you call Laser Grade at 1-800-211-2754. **For more information about the examination** (including content and scheduling instructions) go to [http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp\\_state.cfm?state=TX](http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp_state.cfm?state=TX) and make sure to review the *2008 Texas Electrical Examination Bulletin*.



### **City Electrical Requirements**

We have posted a webpage list of local electrical requirements (i.e. code, permitting, licensing, etc...) for many cities throughout the state. We encourage you to review the most current information that we have on record for your city at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/forms/citylist.pdf>. If you have not provided the agency with your local requirements OR if you need to update us on any changes, please do so by utilizing the [Municipal Electricians Requirements Questionnaire](#). We want to assist in keeping all electricians in Texas adequately informed, so please get us the information as soon as you can. Your input is invaluable!

### **TDLR Electrical Task Force**

The Electrical Enforcement Task Force (EETF) will meet in **Dallas, Texas on June 19, 2008 @ THE HOME DEPOT Headquarters at 2800 Forest Lane from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM**. If you plan on attending, please contact Brooks Myers at (281) 846 - 8434 OR [Brooks\\_M\\_Myers@homedepot.com](mailto:Brooks_M_Myers@homedepot.com) so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating. To be added to the Enforcement Division's email group and receive updates on the next EETF meeting, send your email address to [elctask@license.state.tx.us](mailto:elctask@license.state.tx.us).



### **Town Hall Meetings – Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Compliance Division staff will be holding informal "town hall" meetings to touch base with local area contractors, inspectors, and any other interested persons. We hope these meetings will allow us to 1) put some faces to our names; 2) find out about electrical safety issues/concerns that may be specific to your area; 3) establish working partnerships with the local jurisdictions; 4) answer any "hot topic" questions regarding state electrical requirements, and 5) provide additional education on the law and rules.

The first two meetings are scheduled for:

- Tyler, Texas on June 24, 2008 at the Wise Cultural Arts Center @ Tyler Junior College in the Jeane Brown Theatre starting at 6:00 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Benny Swan at (903) 595-6792 OR [swan11@hughes.net](mailto:swan11@hughes.net) so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating.
- Lubbock, Texas on July 18, 2008 at Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane, Room 107. If you plan on attending, please contact Travis Burrow at (806) 775-2086 OR [travisburrow@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us](mailto:travisburrow@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us) so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating.

We want to hear first hand how TDLR is doing (i.e. what are we doing well and what can we do better), so if you would like to invite us to hold a "town hall" meeting in your area please contact Jerry Daniel at [jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us](mailto:jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us) or (512) 799-1489.

### **The Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board**

The Board met on April 8, 2008 at 9:00 AM for discussion and possible recommendations regarding a multi-state journeyman electrician reciprocity agreement. Current members of the proposed reciprocity agreement include: Alaska; Arkansas; Colorado; Minnesota; Montana; Oklahoma; Nebraska; New Hampshire; New Mexico; North Dakota; South Dakota; Utah; Washington; and Wyoming. To listen to the meeting and get more detail on these matters go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecmeet.htm>. The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2008 at 9:00 AM.





### **Concerns from the Texas Electrical Sign Industry**

We have heard concerns from members of the Texas electrical sign industry that some sign electricians may not be abiding by state requirements. All sign electricians must remember:

- To display their contractor # on all vehicles used in conducting electrical work and to include "TDLR" contact information on all of their invoices and proposals;
- In order to "perform or offer to perform electrical sign work" you must hold or employ someone that holds the appropriate (TECL or TSCL) contracting license; and
- That all electric signs must be "listed" per Article 600.3 of the NEC unless the local authority having jurisdiction has amendments that would supersede these requirements.

### **Monthly "Licensing Sweeps"**

TDLR's monthly "licensing sweeps" continue. Our most recent activities included visits to the incorporated and unincorporated areas of:

- **Jones County**
- **Taylor County**
- **Williamson County**
- **Dallas County**



Through our cooperative efforts with local municipal officials, TDLR staff has been successful at identifying violations including: 1) vehicles not properly marked with the Electrical Contractor License # (i.e. TECL#), 2) electrical work performed with expired licenses, 3) electrical work performed without electrical licenses, and 4) unsupervised electrical work being performed by apprentice electricians. The "licensing sweeps" are intended to curtail unlicensed activity by establishing a TDLR presence, educating the public on the state electrical licensing requirements, and verifying that electrical work is being performed by licensed electricians in accordance with state law and rules. If you would like to coordinate for a license sweep in your area please contact Jerry Daniel at [jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us](mailto:jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us) or (512) 799-1489.

### **TDLR Compliance Staff (Other Notable Activities)**

- On 03/31/08 participated in TDLR's Strategic Planning efforts for the Electricians Focus Group held March 31st in Austin @ the Radisson Hotel. Thanks to all that took the time to attend and give their input to help TDLR.
- On 5/17/08 gave presentation at the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office regarding fireworks stands. Thanks to Phil Rogers, Mike Montgomery, Laurie Christensen and Jerry Ickes.
- On 05/19-22/08 participated in the Building Professionals Institute (BPI) training conference in Arlington, TX. Special thanks to Bureau Veritas' Van Tran and David Ramage.

### **Additional Contact Information:**

For general questions about the electrical program you may contact TDLR at (512) 463-6599 or toll-free (in Texas) (800) 803-9202. For the hearing impaired, Relay Texas - TDD is available at (800) 735-2989.

For Questions about the State Electrical Program: [electricians@license.state.tx.us](mailto:electricians@license.state.tx.us)

To File a Complaint or Report a Violation go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/Complaints/>



### **Did You Know...**

That all non-exempt electrical work must be performed by licensed electricians working through licensed electrical contractors – even if the work is outside of city limits/jurisdiction. See Administrative Rule 73.70(a) <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecrules030108.pdf>



### **Closing the Circuit**

Your participation/input is critical! If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or observations, please contact us – we want to hear from you. You may reach Jerry Daniel at (512) 799-1489 or e-mail him at: [jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us](mailto:jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us). You may reach Larry Reichle at (512) 463-7289 or e-mail him at: [larry.reichle@license.state.tx.us](mailto:larry.reichle@license.state.tx.us). Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!**



Remember – "Your character determines your success!"  
**Thanks! – Jerry Daniel & Larry Reichle**  
**Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation**  
**Electrical Compliance Division**