



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

Welcome to the TDLR FLASH

Our newsletter is intended to keep city officials, electricians, and consumers throughout Texas informed of the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Act and TDLR's efforts to enforce the associated requirements. To receive news and regular updates on the state electrical program, please sign up on our email notification list at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.



May Is Electrical Safety Month

Please take this to heart and help ensure your home and workplace is free from electrical hazards. Some simple precautions you can take...

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets. Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a licensed Electrical Contractor so you do not have to use extension cords.
- In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance (i.e. toaster, iron, hair dryer, vacuum) into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If an outlet or switch feels warm, shut off the circuit and have it checked by an electrician.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.
- For electrical safety information and fun activities for the little ones you can go to <http://www.sparky.org>
Electrical safety education for children is important...teach them early!



2008 NEC Code Adoption & State Electrical Exams

Effective last September, TDLR adopted the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) as the "minimum standard" for all non-exempt electrical work in Texas. All examinations for state electrical licenses are now based on the 2008 NEC. The state electrical exams are available through the International Code Council (ICC). For more information about the examination go to http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp_state.cfm?state=TX and make sure to review the *2009 Texas Electrical Examination Bulletin*.

Local Electrical Requirements

TDLR has 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>. Attention city officials...if you have not provided TDLR 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!

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

TDLR staff continues 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.

This Quarter's Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for:

- **Irving** on March 10, 2009 at The City of Irving's City Hall at 825 W. Irving Blvd starting at 6:30 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Gary Jones at (817) 944-5338 or gjones@iaei.org so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating.

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 or (512) 799-1489.

Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board

The Advisory Board met on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 9:00 AM. Agenda items included discussion regarding multi-state reciprocity and staff reports. If you were unable to attend, but would like to listen to the meeting via streaming audio, go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecmeet.htm>





Continued Concerns from the Texas Electrical Sign Industry

We are still hearing 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 number 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 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;

NOTE: All of a contractor's non-exempt electrical sign work shall be performed by licensed individuals. The contractor is responsible for complying with applicable codes and for all electrical sign work performed.



Monthly Licensing Sweeps

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

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| ➤ Hidalgo County | ➤ Winkler County | ➤ Polk County |
| ➤ Midland County | ➤ Glasscock County | ➤ Trinity County |
| ➤ Ector County | ➤ Sterling County | |
| ➤ Ward County | ➤ Angelina County | |

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 or (512) 799-1489.



TDLR Compliance Staff (Other Notable Activities)

- Dec. 11th. Town Hall Meeting in San Antonio.
- Dec. 29th. Electrical Inspection Training with the Harris County Fire Marshal
- Jan. 29th. Town Hall Meeting in Midland/Odessa.
- Feb. 5th. Town Hall Meeting in Lufkin.
- Feb. 10th. Texas Sign Association (TSA) Meeting with the San Antonio Sign Association (SASA)
- Feb. 27th. Texas Sign Association (TSA) Meeting with the Dallas Metroplex Sign Association (DMSA)



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

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



Did You Know?

That a licensed Electrical Contractor is required to maintain employee records and records of all work performed, for a period of four years after completion of the work. Contractors are required to make those records available to the Department (at the contractor's place of business) during normal business hours for inspection and copying. Reference Administrative Rule 73.51(d) Electrical Contractors Responsibilities or go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecrules.htm#7351>

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@license.state.tx.us. You may reach Larry Reichle at (512) 539-5722 or e-mail him at: larry.reichle@license.state.tx.us. Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!**

Remember: Many fatal electrical shocks happen to people who should know better - think twice and don't take chances.



Jerry Daniel – Electrical Occupations & Code Specialist

Larry Reichle – Program Specialist

Compliance Division, TDLR