

## **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>.



## **May Is Electrical Safety Month**

And we would like you to consider these numbers from the United States Fire Administration (USFA):

- **28,300 - Estimated number of electrical residential fires each year!**
- **\$ 995 Million - Estimated property loss from electrical fires each year!**
- **360 - Estimated deaths due to electrical fires each year!**

Some simple things you can do to avoid electrical hazards:

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.
- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a licensed electrical contractor, so you do not have to use extension cords.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them 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 and fun activities for the little ones you can go to <http://www.sparky.org/>
- For more information on electrical safety and electrical fires please visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>

### **HB 1973 Expands the Scope of Electric Work for Residential Appliance Installers**

As of March 1, 2010 and per House Bill 1973, the work that may be performed by licensed residential appliance installers now includes pool and spa related electrical maintenance work. Implementation of the bill required a number of rule changes which were reviewed by the Electrical Advisory Board, adopted by the Commission, and went into effect January 1, 2010. The rule changes and public comments TDLR received can be found at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elec.htm#adoptedrules> The text for House Bill 1973 can be found at <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB1973>



### **Monthly Licensing Sweeps**

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

- |                        |                              |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ <b>Travis County</b> | ➤ <b>Nueces County</b>       | ➤ <b>Bee County</b>     |
| ➤ <b>Blanco County</b> | ➤ <b>Aransas County</b>      | ➤ <b>Goliad County</b>  |
| ➤ <b>Llano County</b>  | ➤ <b>San Patricio County</b> | ➤ <b>Johnson County</b> |

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@license.state.tx.us](mailto:jerry@license.state.tx.us) or (512) 799-1489.

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

- December 1: Victoria - Helped to educate students at Victoria High School Electrical Trades Program.
- January 5: Richardson - North Texas ASPA Chapter Meeting
- January 12: Austin - Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board Meeting
- January 19: San Antonio - Helped to educate students at MacArthur High School Electrical Trades Program
- January 19: San Antonio - Presentation to TIVA High School Electrical Trades Program Teachers & IEC
- January 26: Corpus Christi - Town Hall Meeting
- February 10: Dallas/Ft. Worth/Irving - Town Hall Meeting
- February 12: San Antonio - Southwest ASPA Pool & Spa Show
- February 23: Austin - Central Texas ASPA Chapter Meeting





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

The Electrical Advisory Board last met on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 9:00 AM. If you were unable to attend, but would like to listen to the meeting via streaming video, go to:

<http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecmeet.htm>



## **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. If you would like to invite us to hold a town hall meeting in your area please contact Jerry Daniel at [jerry@license.state.tx.us](mailto:jerry@license.state.tx.us) or (512) 799-1489.

- March 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at IEC Gulf Coast/Houston Office/601 N. Shepherd Dr./Suite 330/Houston, TX
- March 24, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at IEC Gulf Coast/Houston Office/601 N. Shepherd Dr./Suite 330/Houston, TX
- March 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at A.W. Hodde Jr. Technical Education Center/ 2910 South Bluebell Road/Brenham, TX
- April 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott South/4151 Centreport Boulevard/Fort Worth, TX
- April 8, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at Cliff Morton Development & Business Services Center/1901 S. Alamo/San Antonio, TX



## **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:

- In order to "perform or offer to perform electrical sign work" you must hold the appropriate (TECL or TSCL) contracting license.
- 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.
- That all of a contractor's non-exempt electrical sign work shall be performed by licensed individuals. A contractor is responsible for compliance with applicable codes for all electrical sign work performed on its behalf.



## **City and Town 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!



## **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...**

TDLR has proposed administrative rule amendments to address continuing education requirements for licensed electrical apprentices? The deadline for public comment is March 22, 2010. The proposed rule changes can be found at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elec.htm#propuleamend>



## **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](mailto: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](mailto:larry.reichle@license.state.tx.us). Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!**

**Jerry Daniel - Electrical Occupations & Code Specialist**

**Larry Reichle - Electrical Program Specialist**

**Compliance Division, TDLR**