



### 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 and updates on the electrical program, you may sign up for TDLR's free email subscription service at: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.

### Survey Questionnaires for Local Electrical Requirements

The information collection continues and a new web page has been constructed from the data received to show requirements of the cities and municipalities throughout the state. Again, we encourage you to see if you are on our list at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/forms/citylist.pdf>. If you have not provided the agency with your local electrical licensing requirements the city listing will show a "?" indicating that there was no response received. Remember...your input is invaluable, so please get us the information as soon as you can.

### Appliance Installer and Installation Contractor Licenses

The 80th Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 1222 (still awaiting signature by the Governor) which amends the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Act (Chapter 1305) and will require a license for *appliance installers* and *appliance installation contractors*. Beginning **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**, in order to install a new appliance OR replace an existing appliance (other than by inserting or removing a plug from an electrical outlet) a person will have to hold an "appliance installer" license. Applicants for license will be required to pass an examination; however, the bill includes "grandfathering" provisions which will allow persons meeting certain experience requirements to apply for a license without examination until **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**. Applicants who utilize the "grandfathering provisions" will still be required to 1) *submit a completed application including applicable fees*, and 2) *verify experience of at least 4,000 hours of electrical work or residential appliance installation under the supervision of a master electrician*. All applicants will be subject to a criminal background check. Appliance installation contractors - among other things - will have to be licensed as installers or employ a licensed installer AND will have to establish proof of financial responsibility. **NOTE: Applications are not yet available - sign on to the electricians email notification list if you wish to be notified when they become available.**

### Monthly "Licensing Sweeps"

TDLR Compliance Division's monthly "licensing sweeps" continue and our third quarter activities included visits to the incorporated and unincorporated areas of:

- **Collin** and **Hunt** counties, where we accepted an invitation from the local officials, coordinated with TDLR's North Texas Field Investigator, Cory Trip, and performed a sweep in late March.
- **Kendall** county, where we accepted an invitation from the local officials and coordinated with them to perform a sweep in late April. Thanks to Jesse Aguirre and Sean Skaggs for their assistance.
- **Hidalgo** and **Cameron** counties, where we accepted an invitation from the local officials and coordinated with them to perform a sweep in mid-May. Thanks to Luis Vasquez, Saul Torres, and Natalia Velasquez for their assistance.

Through our cooperative efforts with local municipal officials, TDLR staff has been successful at identifying violations including: 1) electrical work performed without electrical license, 2) electrical work performed with expired licenses, and 3) vehicles not properly marked with the Electrical Contractor License # (i.e. TECL#). 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.

During the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, TDLR's Compliance Division will be focusing our "licensing sweep" efforts in the counties of East, West, and Central Texas. Invitations or requests from local officials for TDLR to establish a presence in unincorporated areas of their counties are always welcome.

### Other Notable TDLR Compliance Activities

- Attended the ACCA (Air Conditioning Contractors of America) Greater Houston Area meeting
- Attended the Texas Railroad Commission Inspectors meeting
- Participated in the Houston sting with TDLR's Enforcement Division
- Made a presentation to Leander High School's Electrical Apprenticeship Program
- Attended the BPI (Building Professional Institute) Conference in Arlington
- Attended the VBOA (Valley Building Official Association) Conference on South Padre Island  
(Congrats to Luis Vasquez, Chief Building Official for McAllen, for being awarded the prestigious "King Award" from the VBOA!)

### **Electrical Enforcement Task Force**

Based on the number of email responses we received, the information on TDLR's Electrician Enforcement Task Force Team (EETFT) in the March edition of the Flash was well received. If you sent an email to us, you were included on our EETFT email contact list.

Please note that the first meeting of the EETFT is still in the planning stages. As soon as the meeting is scheduled, we'll send everyone an email. If you would like to participate in the EETFT, just drop us a line at [elctask@license.state.tx.us](mailto:elctask@license.state.tx.us) and we'll add you to our email contact list.

Thank you all for your input and interest!  
Steve Franz & Cory Trip, Enforcement Division

### **Electrical Exam Committee Changes**

The ICC Texas Electrical Examination Advisory Committee (EAC) application period has closed until April 1<sup>st</sup> of next year. Every year from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>, ICC will be accepting applications for consideration for those individuals who wish to assist in developing the Texas Electrical Exams. The application will be posted at [http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp\\_state.cfm?state=TX](http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp_state.cfm?state=TX)

A list of the new EAC members will be in the September edition of the TDLR Flash. Thank you to all who applied.

### **Local: High School Electrical Apprenticeship Instructor Passes Away**

Larry Brown was the Electrical Instructor at Leander High School for 14 years and developed one of the best electrical education programs for young men and women in the country. Year after year his students won local, regional and Texas State SkillsUSA (formerly known as Vocational Industrial Clubs of America – VICA) competitions and have competed at the National SkillsUSA competition. He helped prepare many electricians for careers as Contractors, Estimators, Project Managers, Foreman, Masters, Journeymen, and Apprentices. Recently, Larry Brown lost his battle with cancer. Our dedication to ensuring safety in the electrical industry is aided by local programs such as these. If interested in helping to keep the electrical education program at Leander High School going - please visit the link below:

<http://fmpro.leanderisd.org:8000/jobonline/FMPro?-db=lisdjobs%5f.fmp&-format=record%5fdetail.htm&-lay=layout%20%231&-sortfield=category&-sortfield=department&-op=eq&openorclosed=Open&Category=Teaching&Department=High%20School&-max=30&-recid=33737&-find=>

More information can be found at [www.leanderisd.org](http://www.leanderisd.org)

### **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. You can also email the agency at the addresses referenced below:

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/>

### **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) 475-0538 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 - It's great to be important, but even more important to be a great leader – lead by example!*

**Thanks! - J.L. Daniel & L. Reichle**  
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
Electrical Compliance Division