



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 state electrical program you may go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>

Photovoltaic/NEC Training for Electrical Inspectors

Clean Energy Associates, LLC has been tasked with designing and implementing a Solar Photovoltaic Incentive Pilot Program in Texas. To that end, they have asked TDLR's assistance in helping to facilitate interest and attendance in two training seminars they are offering in Dallas & Houston. The Dallas training will be held on 09/02/09 - location to be announced. The date and location of the Houston training is - to be determined. The **FREE** training is **ONLY** open to city electrical inspectors **AND** to electrical inspectors certified with the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) or International Code Council (ICC).

The one day seminars will cover the requirements of the National Electrical Code as they apply to solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. PV module characteristics that drive code requirements, wiring types/methods, over-current devices, and disconnects will be addressed. Utility interactive PV systems will be covered and common code violations will be discussed. **Code basics will not be covered** and will be assumed to be understood by the audience.

The seminars will be conducted by John Wiles, Program Manager at the Technology Development Institute at New Mexico State University, who is an authority on the National Electric Code (NEC). He assists the PV industry, electrical contractors, electrical inspectors, and purchasing agencies in understanding the PV requirements of the NEC. John serves as Secretary for an NFPA-appointed Task Group involved with Article 690 of the NEC and drafted the text for Article 690 in the 2008 NEC Handbook.

The locations of these seminars will likely be affected by the amount of interest and the number of expected attendees. For more information on the seminar or to RSVP, please email training@cleanenergyassociates.com

City Electrical Requirements

We have posted a webpage list of local electrical requirements (i.e. code, permitting, licensing, etc...) for many cities/towns 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!

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

Compliance Division staff will be holding informal Town Hall Meetings 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:

- **Plainview** on July 15, 2009 at the Heritage Center Museum located at 1900 W. 8th Street Plainview, TX starting @ 1:30 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Chris Callaway at (806) 378-3000 Ext. 3533 or Chris.Callaway@ci.amarillo.tx.us, so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating. For directions, contact Plainview City Hall at (806) 296-1100.

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.

Monthly "Licensing Sweeps"

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

- **Collin County**
- **Denton County**
- **Lampasas County**
- **Burnet County**
- **Williamson County**
- **Brewster County**
- **Pecos County**
- **Crockett County**
- **Schleicher 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)

- March 10th - Held Town Hall Meeting in Irving
- April 21st thru 23rd - Held Master Electrician & Journeyman Exam Development for TDLR Examinations
- May 7th - Attended IEC Centex Electrical Trade Show & Wire Off
- May 11th - Attended Leander High School Electrical Trades School Program
- May 18th thru 21st - Participated in the Building Professional Institute at University of Texas in Arlington



Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at 9:00 AM. If you are unable to attend in person, the meeting will also be broadcast in streaming video. Check <http://www.license.state.tx.us/agendas.htm> for upcoming agenda information and a link to the broadcast. For information on previous meetings of the Board, 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 # on all vehicles used in conducting electrical work and to include "TDLR" contact information on all of their invoices and proposals;
- 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.



REMINDER - 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 based on the 2008 NEC. For more information about scheduling an examination go to http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp_state.cfm?state=TX and make sure to review the *2009 Texas Electrical Examination Bulletin*.



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 go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/Complaints/>



Did You Know...

Grounding is for limiting the voltage imposed by lightning, line surges, or unintentional contact with higher-voltage lines and stabilizing the voltage to earth during normal operation.

Bonding is for safely carrying the maximum ground-fault current likely to be imposed on it from any point on the wiring system where a ground fault may occur to the electrical supply source.

The earth shall not be considered as an effective ground-fault current path!!! *Reference: NEC 250.4(A)*



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: *To regularly evaluate your staff's technical skills & knowledge of electrical safety - only qualified persons should perform installation, maintenance, and repairs on electrical equipment.*

Jerry Daniel – Electrical Occupations & Code Specialist
Larry Reichle – Electrical Program Specialist
Electrical Compliance Division