



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

It's here – September 1, 2008 has arrived. TDLR has adopted 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. Any non-exempt electrical work started on or after September 1, 2008, *in the unincorporated areas of Texas* must be installed in accordance with the NEC 2008. For purposes of clarification, the "start" of electrical work is the day the electrician begins installing electrical materials or equipment within the residential or commercial building structure – again, this applies *in the unincorporated areas of the state*. **Inside the corporate limits of a municipality**, electricians must abide by the permitting and electrical code requirements adopted under local ordinance. See *Statute 1305.201 (d) & (e) and Administrative Rule 73.53*. Click [here](#) to access new Compliance FAQs #13 & #14 addressing applicability of NEC 2008 to residential/commercial electrical work.

All examinations for state electrical licenses will now be 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 *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's (EETF) last meeting was in Dallas on June 19, 2008. At this time there have been no recommendations for the next meeting. To propose a meeting in your area or be added to the Enforcement Division's email group and receive updates on the next EETF meeting, send your proposals and email address to 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.

This quarter's Town Hall meetings are scheduled for:

- **Beaumont** on September 15, 2008 at the Beaumont Civic Center, 701 Main Street starting @ 6:30 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Don Burrell at (409) 880-3762 or dburrell@ci.beaumont.tx.us so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating.
- **Tyler** on October 21, 2008 at the Wise Cultural Arts Center - Tyler Junior College in the Jeane Brown Theatre starting @ 6:00 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Benny Swan at (903) 595-6792 OR swan11@hughes.net so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating.
- **New Braunfels** on November 10, 2008 at 375 South Castell @ 6:30 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Billy Clark at (830) 221-4069 or wclark@nbtexas.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 next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the E.O. Thompson Building located at 920 Colorado - hope to see you there. If you are 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>





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;
- 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:

- **Smith County**
- **Anderson County**
- **Bell County**
- **Lubbock County**
- **Lynn County**

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 or (512) 799-1489.

TDLR Compliance Staff (Other Notable Activities)

- From 06/15/08 to 06/20/08 assisted Enforcement Investigators at a sting in the Houston area. News coverage can be viewed at: http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou080710_tnt_contractors.40e37006.html
- On 06/19/08 attended the Electrical Enforcement Task Force's (EETF) meeting in Dallas, TX.
- On 06/24/08 held a Town Hall Compliance Meeting in Tyler. Thanks to Benny Swan for all the help.
- On 07/18/08 held a Town Hall Compliance Meeting in Lubbock. Thanks to Travis Burrow for all the help.
- On 07/22/08 attended the Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board Meeting.
- On 08/08/08 met with the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office and Houston Enforcement Investigator Demoz regarding electrical work at firework stands. Thanks to Phil Rogers for all the help.
- On 08/12-15/08 attended the TEXAS/ICC electrician's exam development meeting in Lubbock, TX.

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...

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. 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. You may reach Larry Reichle at (512) 463-7289 or e-mail him at: larry.reichle@license.state.tx.us. Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!**

Remember - "To stay focused and dedicated to the work at hand"

Thanks! – Jerry Daniel & Larry Reichle
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Electrical Compliance Division