



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

TDLR has adopted the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) as the "minimum standard" for all non-exempt electrical work in Texas.

In the Unincorporated Areas of Texas:

- 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.

Inside the Corporate Limits of a Municipality:

- Electricians must abide by the permitting and electrical code requirements adopted under local ordinance.
- For purposes of clarification see *Statute 1305.201 (d) & (e)*, *Administrative Rule 73.53*, and the new Compliance FAQ's 13 & 14 addressing applicability of NEC 2008 to residential/commercial electrical work. Electrical FAQ's can be found at: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecfaq.htm>

NOTE: 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 *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!

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) explore 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:

- **San Antonio** on December 11, 2008 at the City of San Antonio's Planning & Development Services Department at 1901 S. Alamo in the board room on the 1st floor starting @ 2:00 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Raymond Martinez at (210) 207-8286 or ray.martinez@sanantonio.gov so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating.
- **Odessa/Midland** on January 29, 2009 starting @ 7:00 PM. The exact meeting location is still pending. If you plan on attending, please contact Ralph McCain at (432) 335-3214 or rmccain@ci.odessa.tx.us so that they can estimate the number of attendees and arrange for adequate seating.
- **Lufkin** on February 5, 2009 at Lufkin City Hall 300 East Shepherd Room# 102 @ 6:30 PM. If you plan on attending, please contact Scott Roberts at (936) 663-0248 or sroberts@cityoflufkin.com 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, February 24, 2009, at 9:00 AM. 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;
- Obtain the appropriate (TECL or TSCL) contracting license in order to "perform or offer to perform electrical sign work"; and
- Ensure that all electric signs are "listed" per Article 600.3 of the NEC, unless the local authority having jurisdiction has amendments that would supersede these requirements.

Monthly License Sweeps

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

- **Orange County**
- **Jefferson County**
- **Smith County**
- **Comal County**

License 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)

- Sept. 8th - 9th Attended Mike Holt's presentation on 2008 NEC Code Changes in San Antonio.
- Sept. 15th Due to Hurricane Ike, the Town Hall meeting at the Beaumont Civic Center was cancelled.
- Sept. 15th - 16th Building & Mechanical Section had two teams make an exploratory visit and offer assistance in the hurricane-affected areas near Beaumont & Houston. We extended an open-ended offer to assist the local jurisdictions with damage assessments/inspections.
- Oct. 16th Coordinated with city official to follow-up on allegations of unlicensed electrical work in Port Arthur.
- Nov. 5th - 7th Coordinated Master and Journeyman Exam development with **Subject Matter Experts** (SME's) from several cities throughout Texas.
- Nov. 14th Attended the International Association of Electrical Inspectors meeting in Richardson.
- Nov. 17th - 21st Provided technical support to Enforcement Division in Houston area electrical sting.

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 licensees must abide by all laws and rules regulating electricians when performing or offering to perform electrical work? See *Administrative Rule 73.70(j)* <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/electrules.htm#7370>
That said...isn't it time you re-familiarized yourself with the Texas Electrical Safety & Licensing Act and the associated Administrative Rules?

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