

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>.



HB 1973 Expands Scope of Electrical Work for Residential Appliance Installers

Per House Bill 1973, pool-related electrical maintenance is now included in the limited electrical work that may be performed by Residential Appliance Installers. The administrative rule amendments necessary for implementing the legislative changes were approved by the Advisory Board at their October 27, 2009 meeting - along with other rule changes affecting electricians and electrical contractors. To review the administrative rules changes, go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elec.htm#proposedrules>. To review the text of HB 1973, go to <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:

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|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| ➤ Collin County | ➤ Burnet County | ➤ Angelina County |
| ➤ Bandera County | ➤ Real County | ➤ Nacogdoches County |
| ➤ Kerr County | ➤ Smith County | ➤ Lake Brownwood |
| ➤ Uvalde County | ➤ Gregg 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@license.state.tx.us or (512) 799-1489.



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 or (512) 799-1489.



TDLR Compliance Staff (Other Notable Activities)

- September 1st - Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board meeting in Austin.
- September 3rd - Photovoltaic training seminar @IEC in Houston.
- September 9th - Town Hall Meeting in McKinney.
- October 5th - Spoke to the students at Seguin High School's electrical trades program.
- October 8th - Town Hall Meeting in Tyler.
- October 27th - Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board meeting in Austin.
- November 11th - Town Hall Meeting in Lufkin.
- November 18th - Spoke at a meeting of the Bldg. Officials Assoc. of Texas/Bluebonnet Chapter in Killeen.



Concerns from the Texas Electrical Sign Industry

During our town hall meetings, we have heard concerns that some sign electricians and sign "brokers" may not be abiding by state requirements in all cities or in unincorporated areas of the county. The following requirements apply to all electrical sign work - in the city or in the county:

- All electric signs must be "listed" per Article 600.3 of the National Electrical Code (NEC).
- All electrical sign work must be performed by licensed individuals per Administrative Rule Chapter 73.52 (b).
- "Offering to perform electrical sign work" means to make a written/oral proposal or contract; or imply in any way, that a person or business entity is available to contract/perform electrical sign work. See definition under Administrative Rule Chapter 73.10 (26). To offer electrical sign contracting services, you must hold the appropriate contracting license (i.e. TECL or TSCL).



Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board

The next Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board is scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at TDLR's North Campus (<http://www.license.state.tx.us/newmeetingloc.htm>), 1106 Clayton Lane, in Austin. The agenda will be posted on TDLR's web site as soon as it is finalized. The meeting will be broadcast and available for viewing at <http://real2.license.state.tx.us:554/ramgen/broadcast/elecmeet/elec011210.rm?usehostname> live via RealPlayer.



State Electrical Exam – Reminders

- All examinations for state electrical licenses are based on the 2008 NEC which is the "minimum standard" for all non-exempt electrical work in Texas.
- PSI (the vendor that TDLR has contracted with to develop, maintain, and administer our exams) offers the state electrical licensing examinations at 22 locations throughout Texas. For more detailed exam information, reference the [Electrician Candidate Information Bulletin \(CIB\)](#) - this document is vital to your understanding of the examination process.
- Exam pre-qualification is required - which means electrician license candidates may not sit for an examination without first submitting a completed license application (with all required documentation and applicable fees) to TDLR. Be sure to follow all of the instructions on the applications which can be downloaded at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecforms.htm>. If the Department determines the applicant is eligible for examination, we will have PSI send a postcard (to the address provided on the license application) notifying the applicant of their eligibility and giving instructions on how to schedule their exam.



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
To File a Complaint or Report a Violation go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/Complaints/>



Did You Know...

Effective **September 1, 2010** all Apprentice electricians (who are not enrolled in a Department of Labor approved apprenticeship program) will need to provide proof of obtaining 4 hours of continuing education (annually) in order to renew their licenses. For more information, reference **Senate Bill 470** which was passed during the **81st Regular Session**. You may view the text of SB 470 at <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=SB470>



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: "Providing great customer service is a choice, so choose wisely."

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