



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
920 Colorado St.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (800) 803-9202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2019

Tela Mange

Public Information Officer

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

512.463.3208

## **Brake failure caused accident that injured JPS Hospital nurse, TDLR report finds**

**AUSTIN** – An elevator brake failure caused the accident that severely injured a nurse at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth on Jan. 20, 2019, an investigator for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation has determined.

The accident on Elevator #29 occurred because worn-out brake shoes did not set firmly when the elevator arrived at the tenth floor, so the elevator car continued to move when the doors opened and the nurse attempted to enter.

The investigation found that worn brake shoes and frozen pins illustrated a lack of routine maintenance and equipment checks. There were no visible signs of lubrication on the brake sleeve and core after the accident. The accident report can be found [here](#).

Elevator #29 will not be placed back into service until the braking assembly is rebuilt, reassembled, adjusted and tested. The TDLR Chief Elevator Inspector will be present when the equipment is tested and he will not authorize placing the elevator back into service until he is satisfied that the braking assembly is sound and operational.

“Routine maintenance is critical to the safe and reliable operation of elevators,” said Brian E. Francis, executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. “TDLR takes the safety of our fellow Texans seriously, and we cannot overemphasize the importance of adhering to the manufacturers’ recommended schedules and actions.”

In light of the investigation’s findings, TDLR has issued a statewide safety alert to building owners and elevator contractors regarding the need for routine elevator maintenance, especially as it relates to elevators with drum brakes.

The maintenance schedule for drum brakes is different from the maintenance schedule for more-modern disc brakes. Failure to identify elevators equipped with drum brakes and properly maintain those drum brakes could lead to brake failure and serious harm to riders.

Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation  
512-463-3208 | [tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov) | [media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov) | [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)  
TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
920 Colorado St.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (800) 803-9202

While older elevators with drum brakes may or may not have been retrofitted with a secondary braking system, having a secondary braking system does not remove the requirement for proper drum brake maintenance or for making sure that the elevator's primary braking system functions as designed.

While licensed elevator contractors must obtain the necessary technical expertise to maintain and repair elevators, escalators, and related equipment, it is ultimately the responsibility of the building owner to ensure that the equipment they own meets all applicable laws, rules, codes, and maintenance standards.

#### About TDLR

*TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 800,000 licensees across the state.*

*Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese.*

##