



STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S NOTICE

July 20, 2011

State Fire Marshal's Office Now Responsible for Fire Safety Inspections of State-Leased Buildings

The State Legislature — in conformance with a Sunset Review recommendation — has adopted HB 1951, which requires that the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) inspect buildings leased by state agencies. The new Government Code provision, Section 417.0081, provides that "the State Fire Marshal shall periodically inspect buildings leased for the use of a state agency by the Texas Facilities Commission." This covers approximately 15,000 buildings in about 200 counties around the state. The SFMO is working with the TFC to identify and prioritize these buildings, and develop the inspection processes and procedures that will be utilized. We are also developing a "pre-lease" building inspection program that can be utilized before an agency signs a building lease.

The SFMO intends to work closely with local fire inspection officials and building owners to develop the means of carrying out this responsibility. The SFMO will be contacting communities in the following months to seek input and coordinate the inspection process, and welcomes comments from affected individuals.

If you are responsible for coordinating fire safety inspections for your community, and a state-leased building is located in your community, please email the following information to fire.marshall@tdi.state.tx.us

- your name,
- position,
- the organization or agency you work for,
- the county where the state-leased building is located, and
- your contact information.

If you are not the person responsible for coordinating inspections but know who is, please forward this notice to them.

As the program moves forward, the SFMO will provide additional details on the proposed process and procedure.