



## Fire Marshal's Notice

### December 2011

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### State Fire Marshal Announces Changes to Registration / License Numbers

The following is a synopsis of upcoming changes to Company Certificates of Registration and Individual License numbers. These changes are part of the State Fire Marshal Office's conversion to the State Insurance Regulators Connection (SIRCON) licensing computer software program and are required in order for companies and individuals to utilize the on-line licensing features of SIRCON.

#### **Issue;**

In SIRCON, the SFMO license numbers are stored in the same data field as the Insurance companies and agents licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance. In addition, the SIRCON license number field will only accept numeric characters; where the old SFMO database allowed letter prefixes to differentiate between license types; i.e. ECR, SCR, APS, RME. By eliminating the prefix as part of the data field, duplicate license numbers are created, both in relation to other SFMO records and when combined with TDI licensing records. The duplicates must be replaced with a new unique number generated automatically by the SIRCON program.

#### **Who will be affected;**

All companies and licensees whose current number (registration or license) is duplicated within SIRCON and was issued before September 7, 2010. This will include all four program areas; Extinguisher, Alarm, Sprinkler and Fireworks.

#### **What will change;**

If your current number is not unique, a new registration or license number will be issued.

IMPORTANT: The printed registration or license will still include the prefixes ECR, ACR, FWD etc. So your official license number will still be ECR-#####, APS-#####, etc.

#### **Estimated Timeline;**

March 2012- SIRCON runs program to create new numbers for the identified list of duplicates.

April 2012- SFMO Licensing Administration mails out new registrations / licenses.

April 2012- Look-up tool on SFMO website enhanced to include both old and new numbers (to allow for transition period). Search capabilities to be added.

**March 2017** [~~January 2013~~]- Deadline for transitioning to new number on all items where registration number is required to be displayed.

We understand the impact this will have to many, both monetarily and in staff time. Unfortunately, this change is required in order to consolidate the databases to meet current licensing requirements within TDI and to allow for future enhancements to our customer service. We are confident that given time, this change will prove to be worthwhile and will result in improved service to you.

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<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fmli.html> (Web site)