

Texas State Fire Marshal's Office

State Building Inspections Annual Report

December 2025



TDI | Texas Department
of Insurance





State Building Inspections Annual Report

Fiscal year 2025

by the

Texas State Fire Marshal's Office

Submitted December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Knight".

Debra Knight
State Fire Marshal
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Contents

State Fire Marshal's Office Fire Safety Inspection Services	3
Overview.....	5
Fire Safety Inspections Services.....	6
Fiscal year 2025 inspections snapshot	7
Key findings.....	9
Fiscal year 2025 inspections	10
State Agency Inspection Reports	11
Colleges and universities	13
Health and Human Services Commission leased spaces	15
State hospitals.....	16
State-supported living centers	17
Texas Department of Criminal Justice.....	18
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	20
Texas Department of Public Safety	21
Texas Department of Transportation.....	22
Texas Department of Transportation safety rest areas and travel information centers.....	24
Texas Facilities Commission state-leased spaces.....	25
Texas General Land Office	26
Texas Historical Commission	27
Texas Juvenile Justice Department.....	28
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.....	29
Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Workforce Solutions.....	30
Specialty inspection and consultation reports	31
Ammonium nitrate storage facilities.....	33
Complaints.....	34
Consultations.....	35
Fee-based	36
Retail firework sites	37



State Fire Marshal's Office Fire Safety Inspection Services

Overview

[State law](#) authorizes the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), under the Texas Department of Insurance commissioner's direction, to take any action necessary to protect state-owned or state-leased buildings (state buildings) and the building's occupants against fire hazards.

The state fire marshal includes the State Office of Risk Management and each state agency occupying or managing state buildings in all communication about fire hazards.

SFMO must periodically inspect state buildings and report the findings to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, and appropriate standing committees of the legislature before January 1 each year.

After each state building inspection, SFMO provides the detailed inspection report with the violations and potential dangers to the agency, building owner, and building occupants.

Fire Safety Inspections Services

SFMO has 11 inspectors to conduct statewide inspections, and one inspector dedicated to the Capitol Complex. There are about 28,000 state buildings.

Fire Safety Inspections Services duties

- Conduct state owned building inspections based on the inspection schedule.
- Inspect state owned buildings outside the schedule based on a risk analysis in consultation with the Texas Facilities Commission and the State Office of Risk Management.
- Work with state agencies to prioritize inspections and find high-risk deficiencies.
- Conduct fee-based, retail firework site, ammonium nitrate storage facility, and complaint inspections and consultations to make sure the building or site meets fire code requirements.
- Inspect buildings leased by state agencies outside of Texas Facilities Commission contracts.

Operational goals

- Verify fire drills occur regularly at state buildings.
- Request building and construction project plans and conduct peer reviews of the plans.
- Identify contacts for all state agencies to improve communication and have a point of contact when providing guidance on corrections in state buildings.

Ongoing projects

Texas Department of Criminal Justice correctional unit inspections

Conduct Operation Lone Star correctional unit inspections in South Texas. This includes working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, and local contractors to make sure buildings follow fire codes.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services residence inspections

Work with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to inspect residences before leasing the residence for children without placement.

New construction inspections

Provide cursory plan reviews for state agencies with new construction or renovations to make sure buildings meet adopted fire codes.

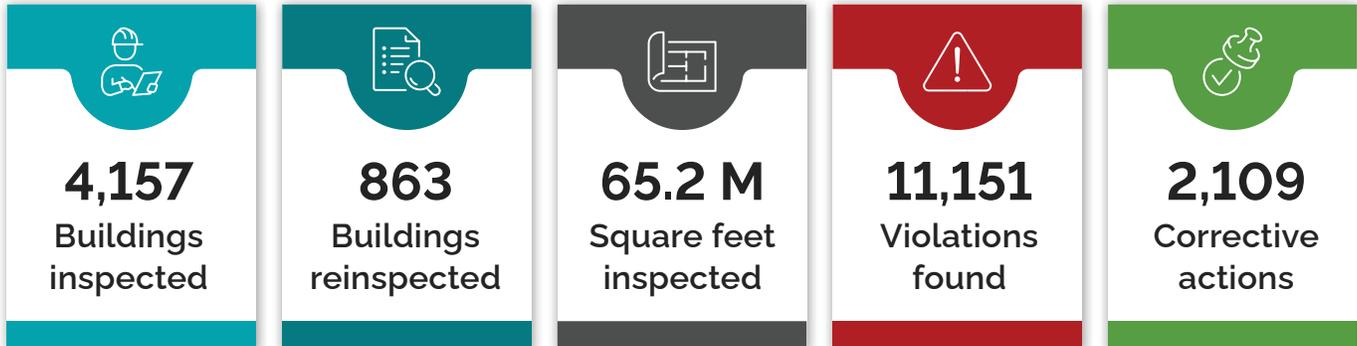


Fiscal year 2025 inspections snapshot

Key findings

In fiscal year 2025, SFMO conducted 5,020 inspections, reinspections, and consultations.

The highlights below include all inspections conducted in the fiscal year. Corrective actions taken in fiscal year 2025 may have been reported in previous fiscal years.



Key inspection violations

The most common fire and life safety violations noted during the inspections for the past year are:

- Not maintaining:
 - Commercial kitchen suppression systems.
 - Emergency lights.
 - Fire alarms.
 - Fire sprinklers.
 - Lighted exit signs.
 - Portable fire extinguishers.
- Using extension cords and power strips as permanent electrical wiring.
- Unprotected openings in firewalls and smoke barriers.
- Missing fire-rated separation between different occupancy classifications.
- Modifications or damage to fire doors.

Agencies and entities with uncorrected violations say a lack of funding is affecting their ability to correct violations.

Fiscal year 2025 inspections

Inspections	Buildings inspected	Buildings reinspected	Sq. feet inspected	Violations found*	Corrective action†
State agency					
Colleges and universities	310	126	23,817,145	2,100	169
Health and Human Services Commission leased spaces	1	-	4,600	8	-
State hospitals	289	52	4,912,468	185	106
State-supported living centers	584	130	6,090,631	819	276
Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice	508	27	6,550,145	1,975	15
Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services	3	2	19,350	11	6
Texas Dept. of Public Safety	7	18	169,245	50	-
Texas Dept. of Transportation	201	108	1,240,224	374	202
Texas Dept. of Transportation rest areas and information centers	18	5	70,947	52	18
Texas Facilities Commission state-leased spaces	46	30	691,884	243	48
Texas General Land Office	32	5	1,070,572	31	33
Texas Historical Commission	8	3	31,570	46	-
Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.	-	2	11,500	-	37
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.	112	32	199,599	138	69
Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Workforce Solutions	3	4	82,986	23	62
State agency subtotal	2,122	544	44,962,866	6,055	1,041
Specialty inspections and consultations					
Ammonium nitrate storage facilities	26	-	21,401	-	-
Complaints	87	53	5,107,363	1,059	245
Consultations	471	7	1,360,629	1,364	5
Fee-based	1,054	258	13,510,431	2,549	816
Retail firework sites	397	1	245,664	124	2
Specialty subtotal	2,035	319	20,245,488	5,096	1,068
Total	4,157	863	65,208,354	11,151	2,109

* Violations found were found in fiscal year 2025.

† Corrective actions may include corrections to violations from previous fiscal years.

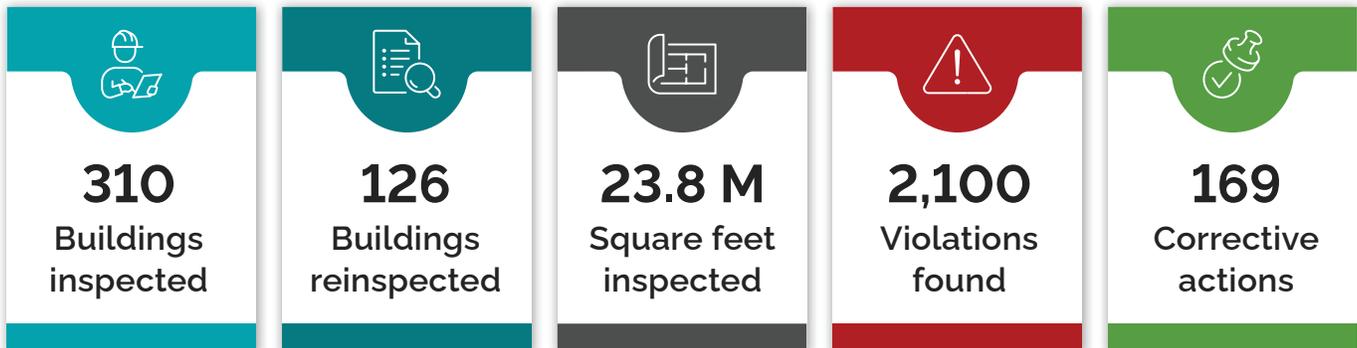


State Agency Inspection Reports

Note: Violations counted under "violations found" were found this fiscal year. Corrections counted and listed under "corrective actions" may include corrections to violations from previous fiscal years.

Colleges and universities

College and university inspections include state-owned and satellite campuses, health care systems, and associated school-owned buildings.



Violations found

- Fire doors and door frames missing inspections.
- Fire doors damaged, didn't close or latch correctly, or were missing listed fire-rating labels.
- Unsealed penetrations in technology closets and mechanical/electrical rooms.
- Too many combustibles stored in several mechanical/electrical rooms.
- Licensed firms found fire alarm and sprinkler systems weren't maintained to code.
- Damaged ceiling tiles.
- Upper floors didn't have enough secondary exits.
- Missing National Fire Protection Association 704 signs.
- Missing inspections, testing, and maintenance for:
 - Emergency lighting.
 - Lighted exit signs.
 - Fire alarms.
 - Fire sprinkler systems.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unused breaker panel openings.
 - Exposed wiring.
 - Missing GFCI outlets.
 - Blocked breaker panels.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.
 - Breaker panel labels not maintained.
 - Student appliances plugged into surge protectors, not wall outlets.

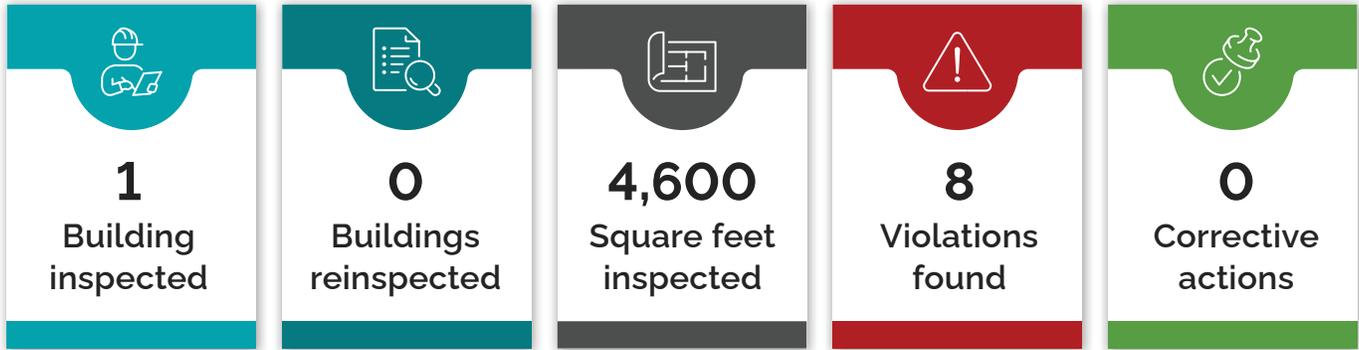
Corrective actions

- Some universities requested a review of code requirements before renovations and new construction.
- Inspected universities gave a prompt response to the inspection report.
- Portable fire extinguishers are now properly maintained and have annual inspections.
- Installed proper signage for fueling sites.
- To confirm fire code compliance, many universities set up procedures for SFMO to conduct a fire and life safety inspection on a building for purchase or received as a donation.

Colleges and universities goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.

Health and Human Services Commission leased spaces



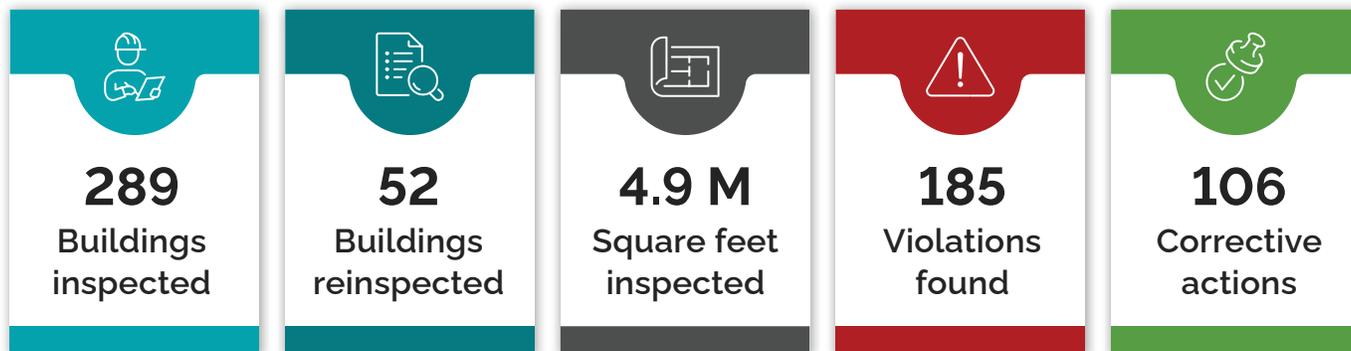
Violations found

- Sprinkler system not maintained.
- Fire alarm panel blocked.
- Missing portable fire extinguishers inspections.
- Electrical violations:
 - Exposed wiring.
 - No circuit identification.

Agency goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.

State hospitals



Violations found

- Damaged ceiling tiles.
- Fire alarms showed trouble signals.
- Photoluminescent exit signs installed where they don't get enough light to recharge.
- Electrical violations:
 - Exposed wiring.
 - No circuit identification.
 - Appliances plugged into power strips.
 - Multiplug adapters used as permanent wiring.

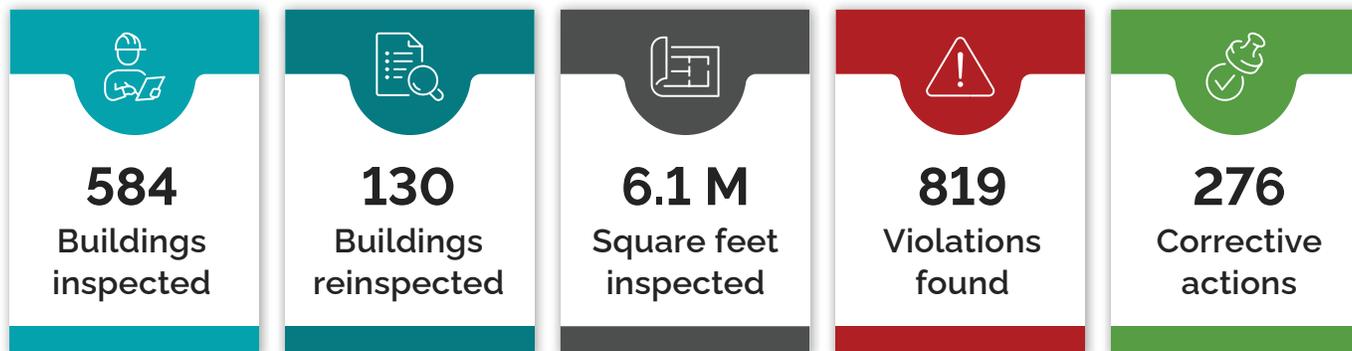
Corrective actions

Corrected several violations during the inspections.

Agency goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.

State-supported living centers



Violations found

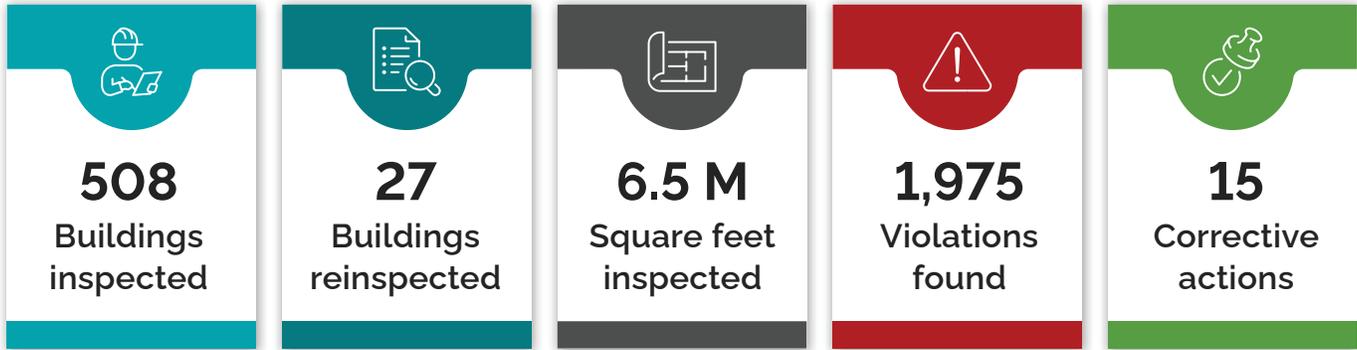
- Damaged ceiling tiles.
- Electrical violations:
 - Missing cover plates.
 - Multiplug adapters and extension cords used as permanent wiring.

Corrective actions

Corrected several violations, including electrical violations, during the inspections.

Agency goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.



Violations found

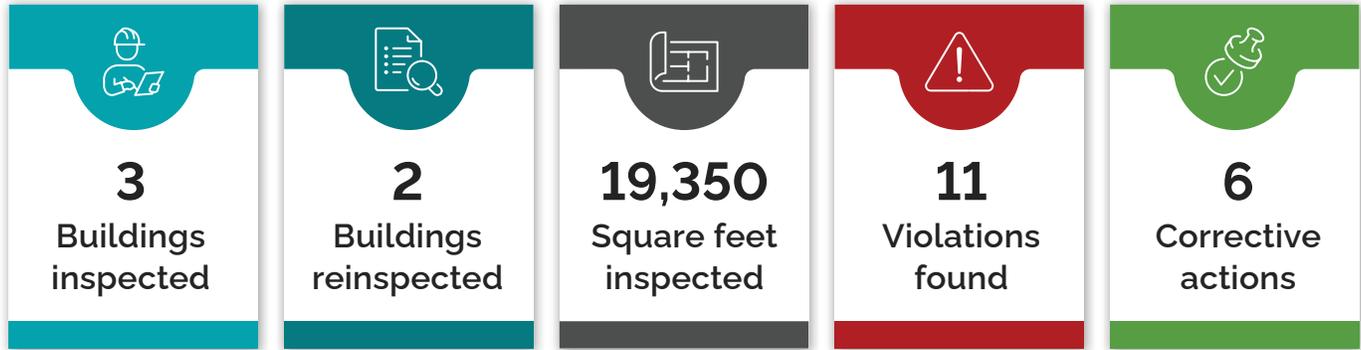
- Fire alarm systems didn't work correctly.
- Disabled smoke evacuation systems.
- Missing:
 - Fire alarm systems.
 - Smoke evacuation systems.
 - Smoke detectors in inmate sleeping areas.
 - Liquid-fueled generators fuel quality testing.
 - Gas pipeline pressure tests.
- Missing inspections, testing, and maintenance for:
 - Fire sprinkler systems.
 - Standpipe systems.
 - Collapsible hose systems.
 - Fire and smoke dampers.
 - Fire department connections.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unused breaker panel openings.
 - Unlabeled breaker panels.
 - Missing cover plates.

Corrective actions

- Met regularly with SFMO to discuss inspection concerns and corrections.
- Requested reviews and code requirements before renovations and new construction.
- Met with SFMO to create a timeline for meeting fire protection systems codes.
- Consulted with SFMO to confirm code compliance before correcting certain violations.

Agency goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Continue to report all fires and work with SFMO to submit accurate fire reports.
- Continue working to address fire alarm issues.
- Maintain all fire protection systems in working order, especially in facilities previously identified as high risk.



Violations found

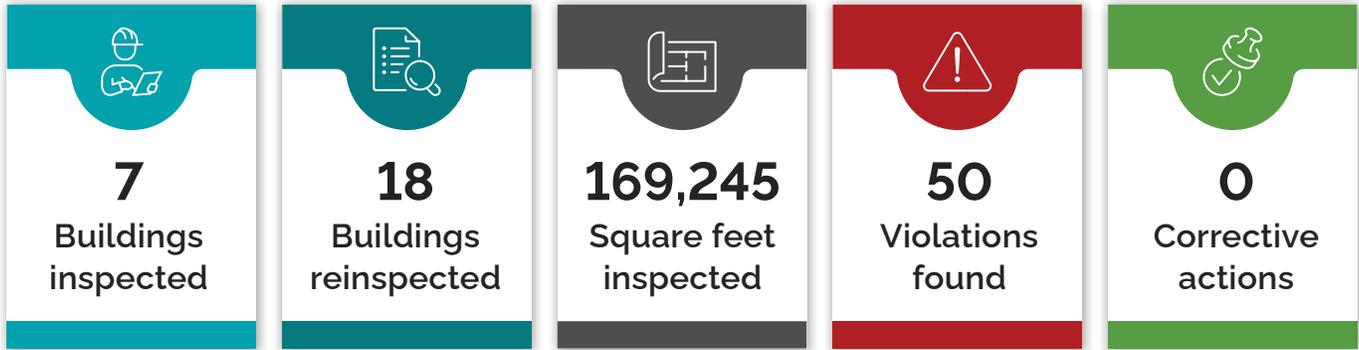
- Missing smoke alarms.
- Emergency lighting didn't work.

Corrective actions

Agency corrected violations promptly and requested a reinspection.

Agency goal

Continue to work with SFMO on property inspections.

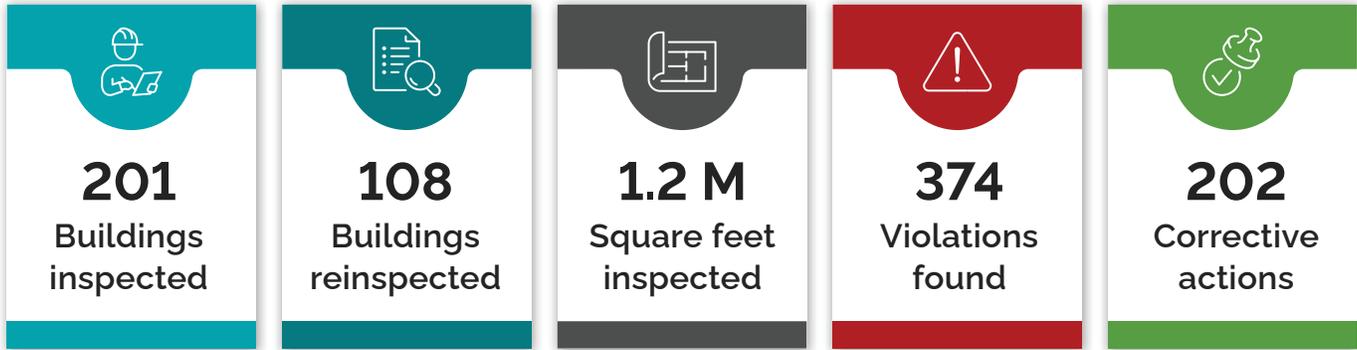


Violations found

- Missing generator fuel testing and maintenance logs.
- Emergency lighting and lighted exit signs didn't work.
- Portable fire extinguishers mounted incorrectly or weren't maintained.
- Missing inspections:
 - Fire doors.
 - Portable fire extinguishers.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unused breaker panel openings.
 - Exposed wiring.
 - Missing GFCI outlets.
 - Blocked breaker panels.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.

Agency goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.



Violations found

- Unapproved door locks.
- One building didn't have a water supply to the fire sprinkler system.
- One building had fire exit issues.
- Lighted exit signs didn't work.
- Combustible materials stored in mechanical/electrical rooms.
- Combustible materials stored incorrectly.
- Missing:
 - Generator fuel testing logs.
 - Fire-rated separations.
 - No Smoking and National Fire Protection Association 704 signs.
- Missing inspections:
 - Fire doors.
 - Fire alarm systems.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unused breaker panel openings.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - Appliances plugged into power strips.

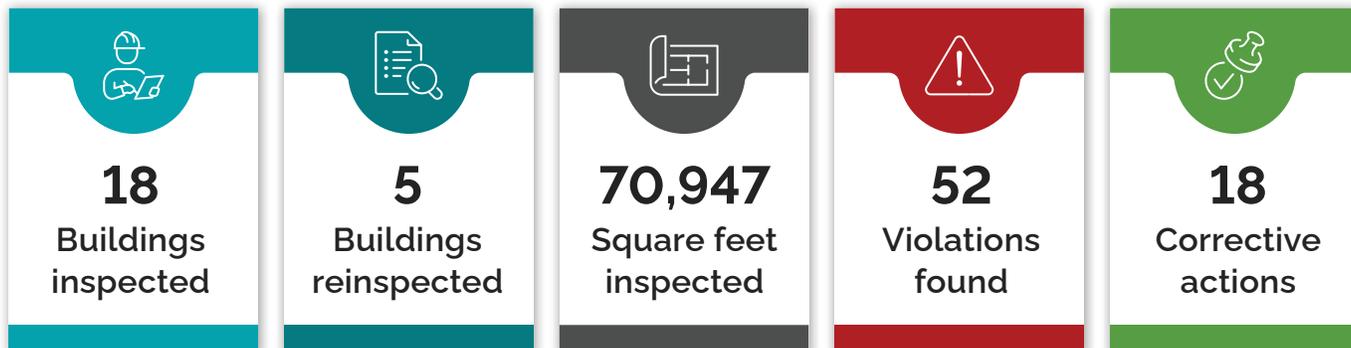
Corrective actions

- Repaired emergency lighting and lighted exit signs.
- Corrected portable fire extinguisher violations.
- Corrected many electrical violations.
- Continued to correct violations found in prior SFMO inspections.

Agency goals

- Work with SFMO to continue fire and life safety inspection staff training.
- Make sure SFMO inspection reports are sent to personnel at each inspected building.
- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.
- Consult with SFMO before installing fire walls to split up different building areas.

Texas Department of Transportation safety rest areas and travel information centers



Violations found

- Fuel-fired equipment stored incorrectly.
- Missing No Smoking and National Fire Protection Association 704 signs.
- Missing fire-rated hardware on fire doors.
- Electrical violations:
 - Exposed wiring.
 - No circuit identification.

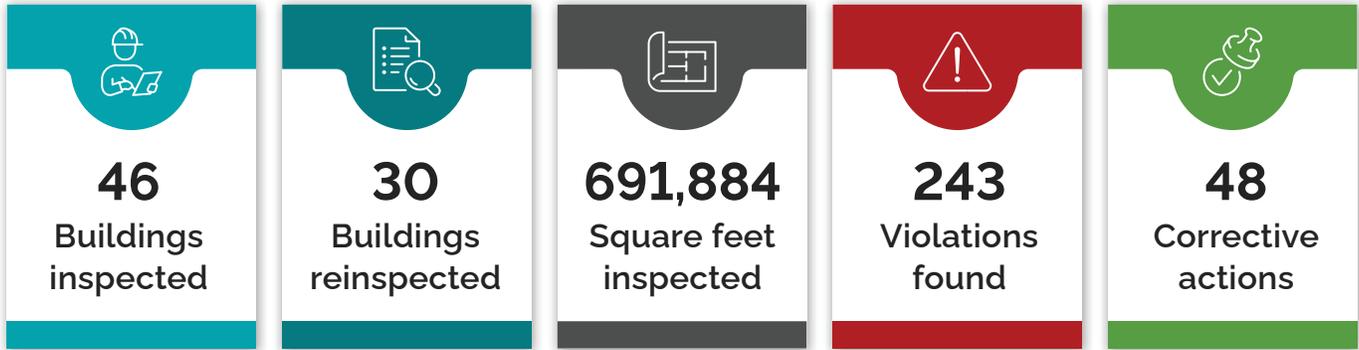
Corrective actions

- Corrected unapproved door locks.
- Marked fire lanes correctly.

Agency goals

- Work with SFMO to continue fire and life safety inspection staff training.
- Make sure SFMO inspection reports are sent to personnel at each inspected building.
- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.

Texas Facilities Commission state-leased spaces



Violations found

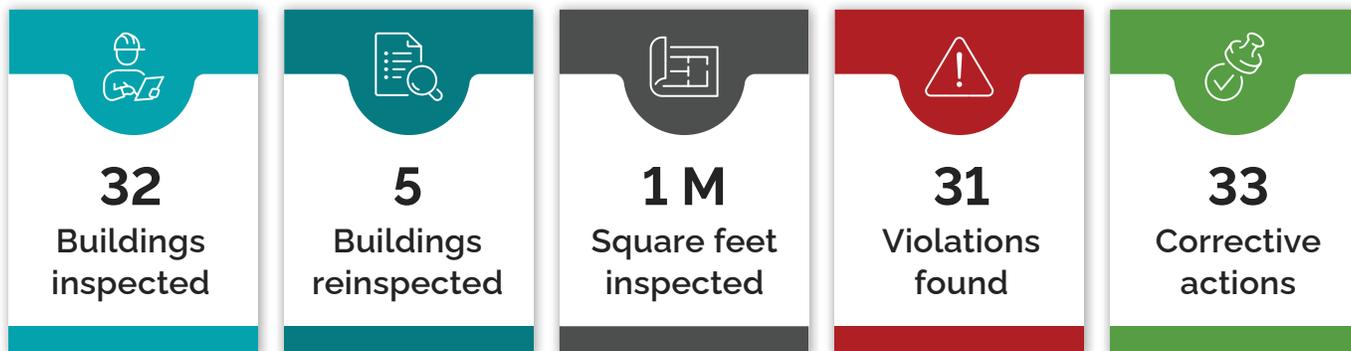
- Storage stacked too high, obstructing sprinkler heads.
- Damaged ceiling tiles.
- Emergency lighting and lighted exit signs didn't work.
- Fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems not maintained.
- Fire doors propped open, not maintained, or didn't work.
- Decorations on fire doors exceeded the code allowance.
- Missing inspections:
 - Portable fire extinguishers.
 - Emergency lighting.
 - Exit signage.
 - Fire alarms.
 - Fire sprinkler systems.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unlabeled breaker panels.
 - Appliances plugged into extension cords.

Corrective actions

Some locations corrected violations promptly and requested reinspection.

Agency goals

- Better communication among the Texas Facilities Commission, lessors, lessees, and SFMO.
- Work with the lessor to find who is responsible for correcting each violation based on the lease agreement.
- Correct violations promptly.



Violations found

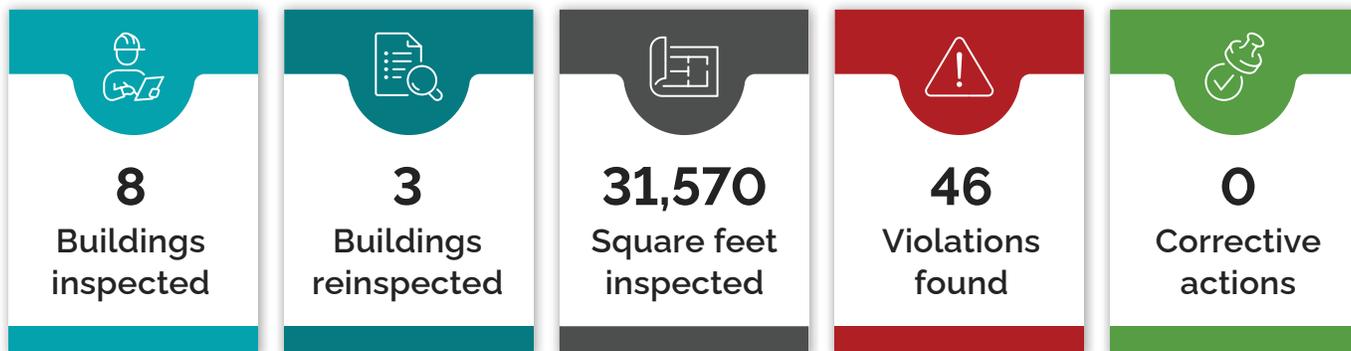
- Fire doors propped open.
- Missing National Fire Protection Association 704 signs.
- Electrical violations:
 - Missing cover plates.
 - Unlabeled breaker panels.

Corrective actions

Agency corrected violations quickly.

Agency goals

- Communicate regularly with SFMO.
- Continue correcting violations.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.



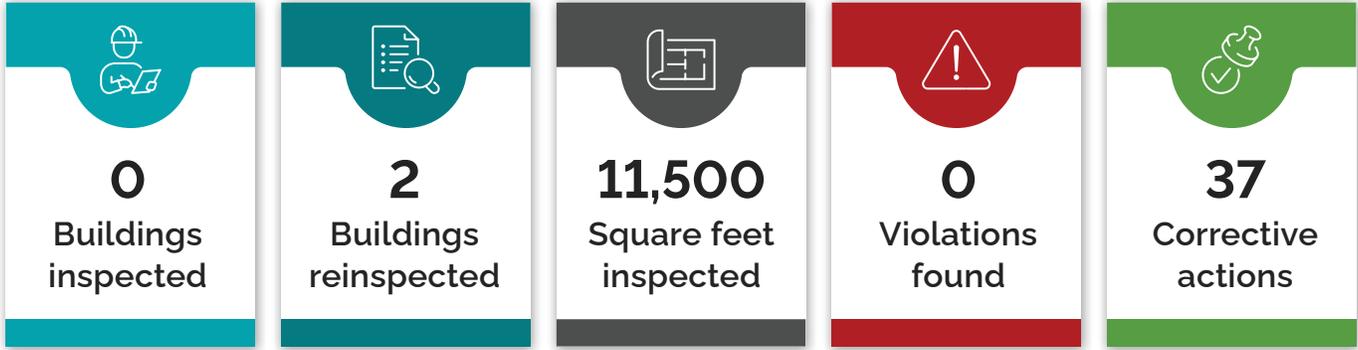
Violations found

- Fuel sites missing:
 - Portable fire extinguishers.
 - Emergency instructions.
 - Spill protection.
 - Impact protection.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unused breaker panel openings.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.

Agency goals

- Communicate regularly with SFMO.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.
- Work with SFMO to correct violations at locations while keeping the historical quality of buildings.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

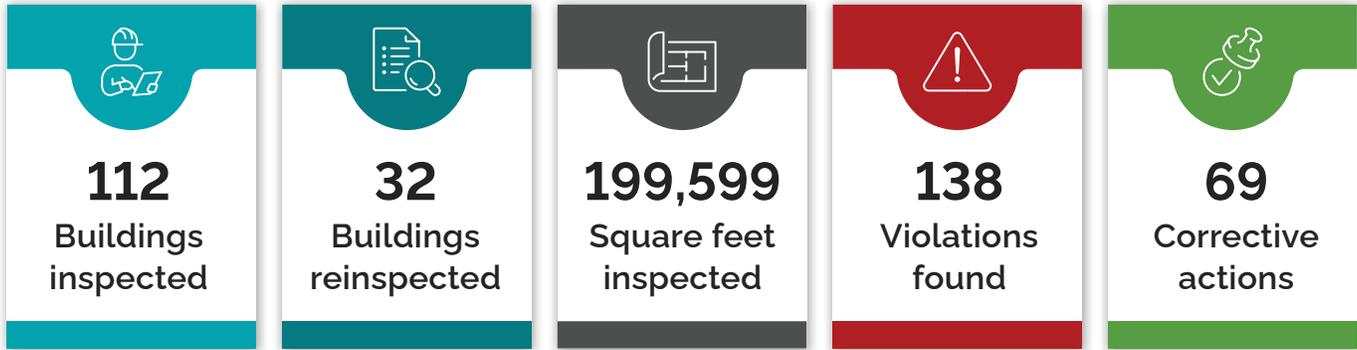


Corrective actions

- Requested project and code requirement reviews before renovations and construction.
- Corrected violations quickly.

Agency goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Maintain open communication with SFMO.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.
- Maintain all fire protection systems in working order, especially in facilities previously identified as high risk.



Violations found

- Portable fire extinguishers missing, mounted wrong, or not maintained.
- Smoke alarms older than 10 years in cabins.
- Missing No Smoking and National Fire Protection Association 704 signs.
- Community kitchens missing hood suppression systems.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unused breaker panel openings.
 - Exposed wiring.
 - Missing GFCI outlets.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.

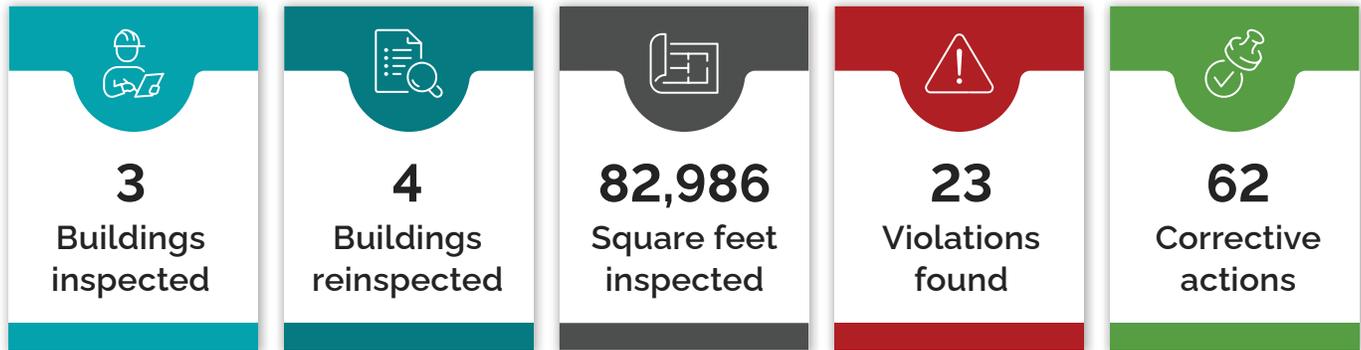
Corrective actions

- Requested reviews and code requirements before renovations and new construction.
- Replaced the smoke alarms.
- Corrected the electrical violations.

Agency goals

- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Correct violations promptly.
- Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.

Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Workforce Solutions



Violations found

- Fire alarm, sprinkler systems, and portable fire extinguishers not maintained.
- Firewall penetrations not sealed.
- Combustibles stored in electrical rooms

Corrective actions

Worked to correct violations quickly.

Agency goal

Report fires through proper state fire reporting procedures.



Specialty inspection and consultation reports

Note: Violations counted under "violations found" were found this fiscal year. Corrections counted and listed under "corrective actions" may include corrections to violations from previous fiscal years.

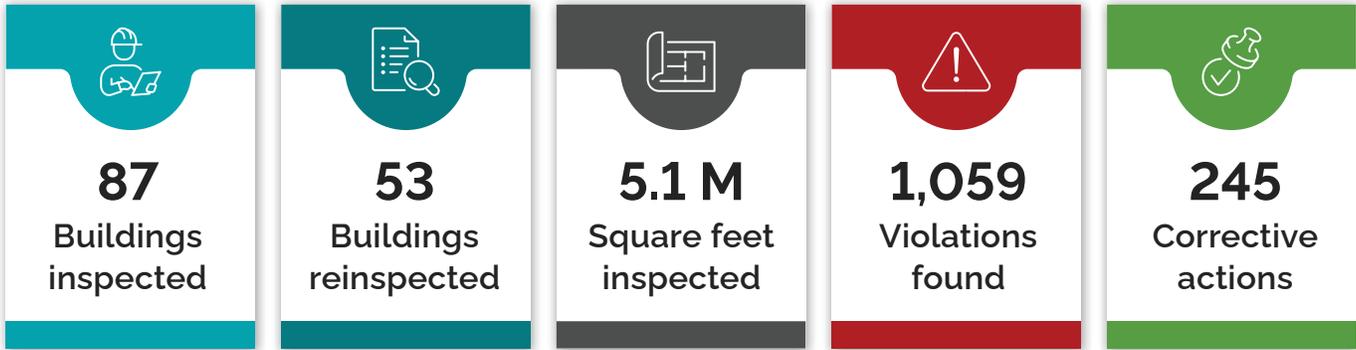
Ammonium nitrate storage facilities



Goals for these facilities

Continue to work with SFMO to make sure facilities follow fire codes.

Complaints



Violations found

- Fire exits opened to a public way, didn't swing out, were blocked, or not maintained.
- Assembly occupancies missing fire alarm, fire sprinkler systems, and staff training.
- No secondary exits on upper stories.
- Pressurized cylinders stored and secured incorrectly.
- Missing emergency lighting and exit signage.
- Portable fire extinguishers not installed, maintained, and inspected.
- Outdoor fuel transfer locations violations:
 - Unlisted hoses.
 - Transferring fuel with engine driven pumps.
 - No emergency plans.
 - No spill control.
 - Site missing the correct automatic cutoff.
 - Containers not bonded and grounded.
- Electrical violations:
 - Unused breaker panel openings.
 - Exposed wiring.
 - Missing GFCI outlets.
 - Blocked breaker panels.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.

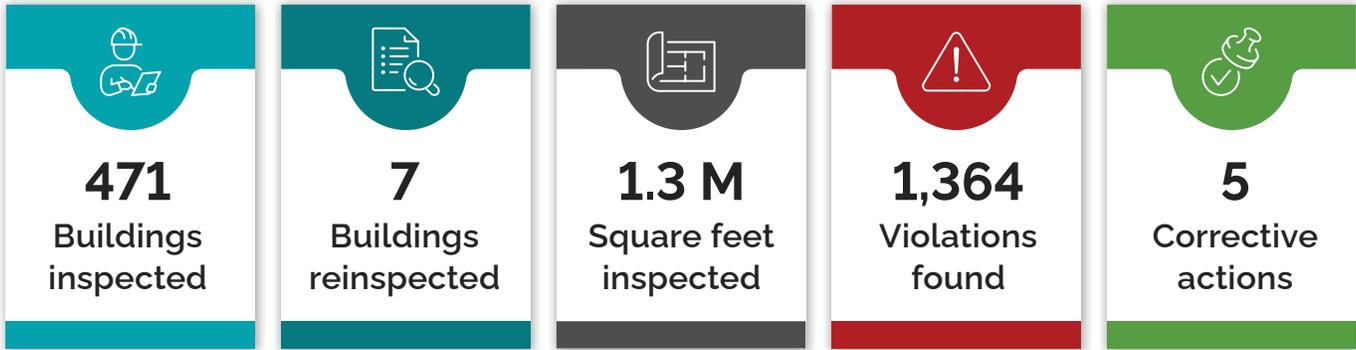
Corrective actions

Managers and property owners worked to correct violations in a timely manner.

Goals for these facilities

Continue to work with SFMO to correct the facility's violations.

Consultations



Violations found

- Smoke alarms didn't work, were older than 10 years, or installed in the wrong locations.
- Unapproved combustible storage locations.
- Unapproved locking devices.
- Emergency lights and exit signs didn't work.
- Portable fire extinguishers not installed, inspected, or maintained.
- Missing:
 - Emergency lights and exit signs.
 - Assembly occupant load signs.
- Electrical violations included:
 - Exposed wiring.
 - Missing GFCI outlets.
 - Blocked breaker panels.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.
 - Appliances plugged into power strips and extension cords.

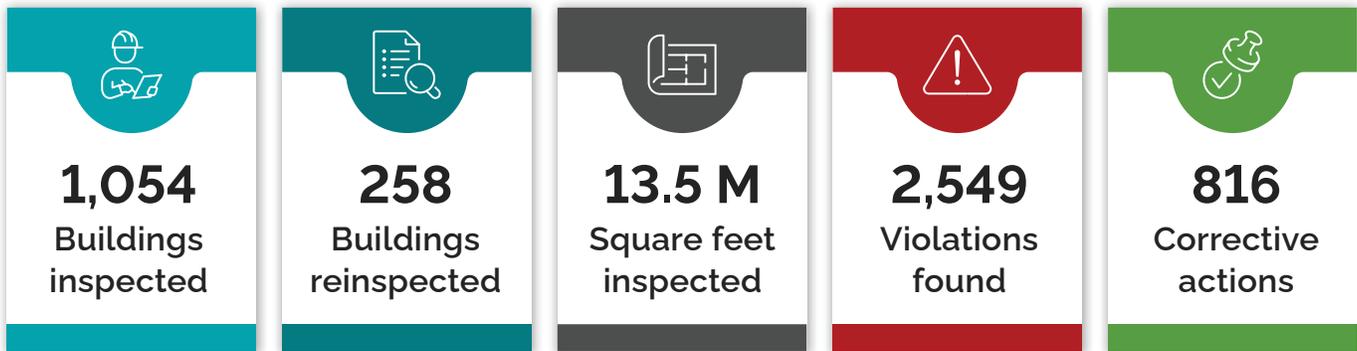
Corrective actions

Managers and property owners worked to correct violations in a timely manner.

Goals for these facilities

Continue to work with SFMO on property inspections.

Fee-based



Violations found

- Fire alarms, fire sprinkler systems, and hood suppression systems weren't maintained.
- Blocked fire exits.
- Unapproved combustible storage locations.
- Holes in fire- or smoke-rated walls.
- Emergency lighting and lighted exit signs didn't work.
- Missing ceiling tiles.
- Curtains and drapes weren't fire resistant.
- Missing inspections:
 - Emergency lighting.
 - Lighted exit signs.
 - Portable fire extinguishers.
- Electrical violations:
 - Wiring not installed to code specifications.
 - Exposed wiring.
 - Missing GFCI outlets.
 - Blocked breaker panels.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.
 - Appliances plugged into power strips and extension cords.

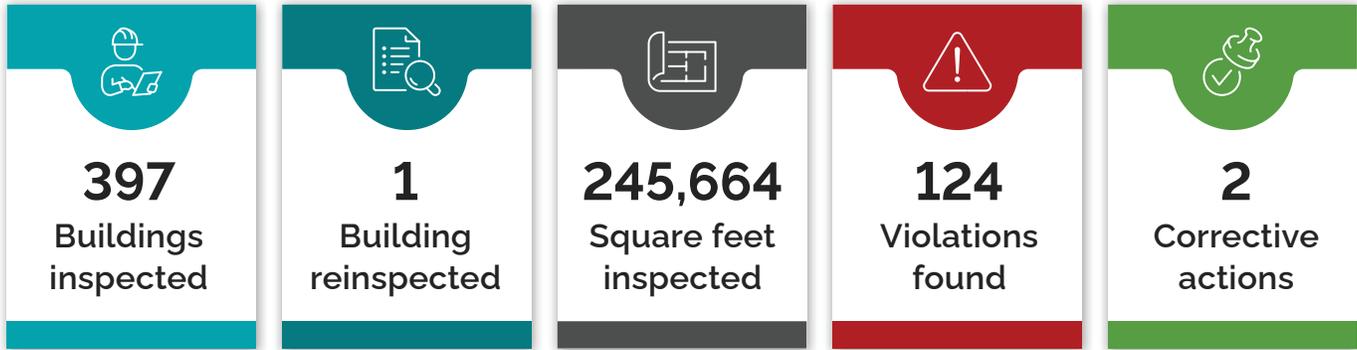
Corrective actions

Corrected violations that may impact licenses within 30 days.

Goals for these facilities

Continue to work with SFMO on property inspections.

Retail firework sites



Violations found

- Trash and combustibles within 10 feet of the stand.
- Blocked fire exits.
- Site plans not filed with SFMO.
- No way to extinguish a small fire.
- Emergency lighting and exit signs not installed or maintained.
- Portable fire extinguishers not inspected or maintained.
- Electrical violations included:
 - Exposed wiring.
 - Missing GFCI outlets.
 - Blocked breaker panels.
 - Missing cover plates.
 - No circuit identification.

Corrective actions

Retail sites corrected critical violations during the selling season.

Goals for these facilities

- Correct violations before the next selling season.
- Perform more routine fire and life safety inspections.
- Continue to work with SFMO on firework site inspections.



Texas State Fire Marshal's Office
State Building Inspections Annual Report

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