

Texas City Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office

Who We Are:



- A Law Enforcement Agency within the Fire Department.
- **Assigned Staff:** 5 (1 Fire Marshal & 2 Assistant Fire Marshal, 2 Neighborhood Improvement Services Officers)



Mission:



- Reduce health and safety risk to the public, as well as Fire Department Personnel through conscientious risk management, and public education.

Responsible For:

- **Planning & Development** *(Reviewing Detailed site plans, Zoning changes, preliminary plats, re-plats, Environmental Assessments, Civil Blue Prints, Mechanical Blue Prints, and Structural Blue Prints)*
- **Fire Investigations**
(Cause determination, Criminal investigations, warrants, and court proceedings)
- **Public Education**
(Fire Prevention presentations at local schools, Fire Extinguisher classes to various community groups)
- **Enforcing City Ordinances** **(Zoning, Building and Fire Code)**
- **Inspections**
(Only City Entity that conducts re-occurring safety inspections of existing Occupancies for Health and safety compliance)
(Certificate of Occupancy Inspections)
- **Neighborhood Improvement Services**
(Assist with all facets of Neighborhood Improvement services)

Responsible For contd:

- **Custodian of Records**

(Submitting all Fire Department response records to the State monthly, reviewing open records request, and maintaining Fire Department data base.)

- **Issuing Operational Permits**

(Alcohol permits, hazardous operations, flammable liquid storage, compressed gas storage, Explosive storage and transport, burn permits, fuel dispensing, daycares/group homes, and paint booths)

- **Provide Technical Assistance & Research**

(consultations to internal and external customers. Architect's, Engineers, Developers, and the general public. Fire safety and evacuation plans)

- **Complaints**

(Citizen complaints, hazardous situations, property access complaints, fire lane violations)



Special Programs



- **Permit Inspection program**

From 1960 to 2009, permit inspection program collected zero dollars.

New program instituted in 2009 designed to offset the Fire Department cost, and man hours spent conducting operational permit inspections.

From 2009 to 2015, permit inspection program collected approximately \$ 196,676.52

- **Smoke Detector Program**

Nearly 4,000 Americans die every year in residential fires. Smoke alarms can provide your family with crucial early warning time to get out of the house quickly before toxic fumes accumulate to lethal levels. A working smoke alarm can double your chance of surviving a fire in the home. Texas City Fire Department provides free smoke detectors to Texas City residents that reside in privately owned homes, and have a genuine need.

- **Fire Prevention:** Visit to every school in Texas City teaching students Stop Drop and Roll, Emergency Escape plans, and Test your smoke alarms. Annual Poster Contest.



Service Provided 2023

- **Inspections- Approximately 1600**
 - Up from approximately 1300 the previous year
- **Fires- 223 Investigated**
 - Structure
 - Brush or rubbish
 - Vehicle
 - Dumpster/ trash

- **Complaints mitigated:** Numerous impaired fire alarm systems, burning trash, Over Crowding of commercial occupancies, locked egress doors, fire lane parking, BBQing on balconies, hoarding and improper storage.
- **Public Education:** Approximately 5000 students instructed annually through various classes such as: Fire extinguisher training, Emergency planning, Fire safety in the home including home safety assessments.
- **Plan Reviews:** Approximately 350

Fireworks Inspection



O'Reilly Auto Parts



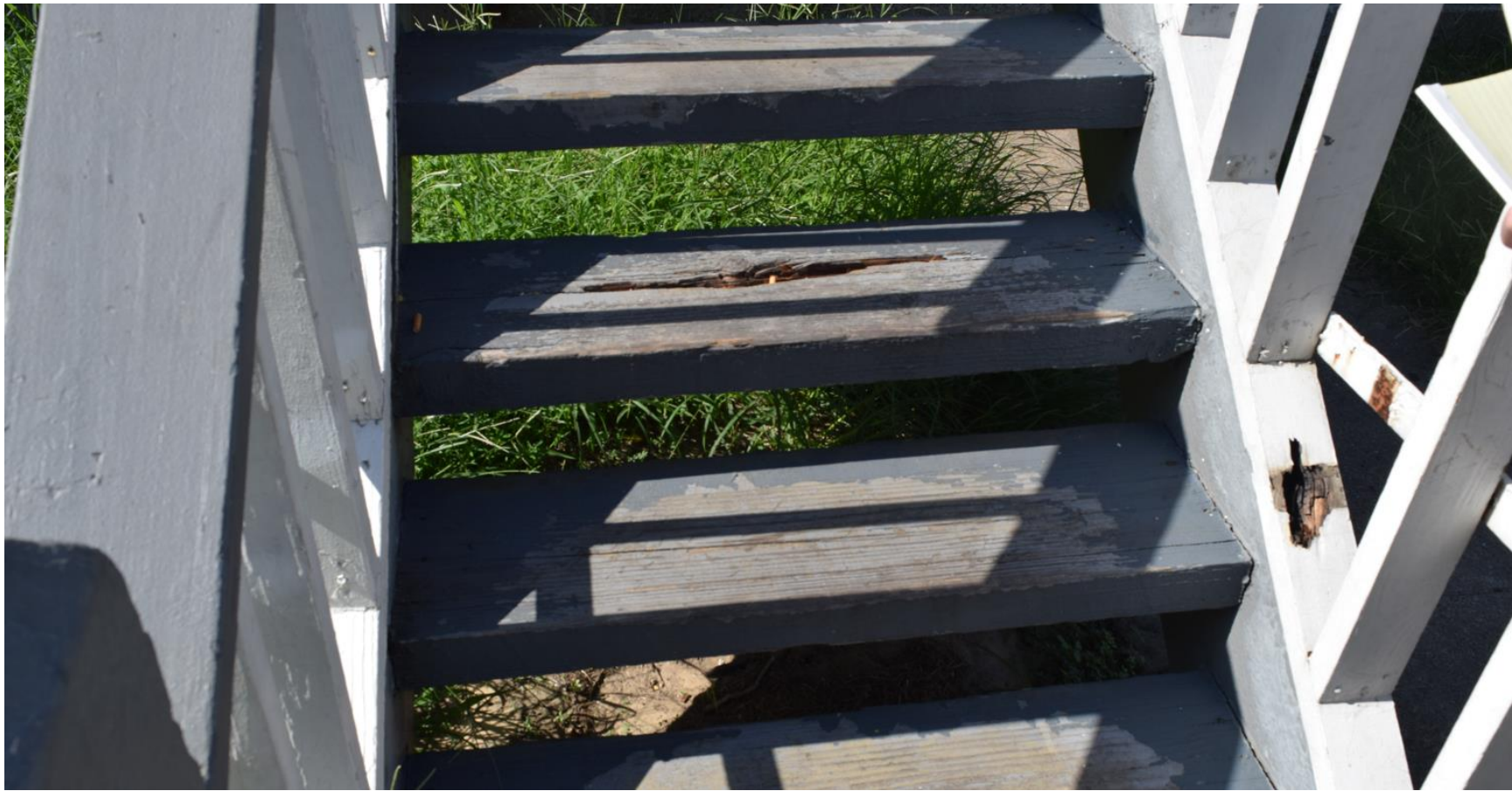
O'Reilly Auto Parts



Apartment Complaints Resolved









Frequently asked Questions

- **Q: Why does the Fire Marshal take up to 30 days to review my plans?**
- **A:** We have a first-come, first-served policy, so depending on the current volume of submittals and inspection requests, (our 2 staff members are both plan reviewers and inspectors), your plans could take from a day, up to 40 days. However, we strive to get all plans reviewed within as soon as possible.

- **Q: Why is there overlap between the regulations that the Fire Marshal enforces and those enforced by the Railroad commission, State Fire Marshal's Office, OSHA, EPA, and TCEQ?**
- **A:** The Fire Marshal's Office enforces the Fire Code, which has many provisions pertaining to hazardous materials. Our focus is on fire safety, injury prevention, and environmental protection. Each agency has many regulations that differ, there are some overlapping regulations as well.

- **Q: I live in an apartment and I was told I cannot grill on my balcony. Is there a regulation prohibiting this?**
- **A:** Yes, the use of open flame grills is prohibited if within 10 feet of an apartment building. Small electric grills that do not produce an open flame and small propane grills with 20lb/5gal tanks are allowed under the fire code, however, they may be prohibited by the building management company.

- **Q: Where should I place smoke detectors in my home?**
- **A:** Smoke detectors should be placed on each floor and in each bedroom, as well as in hallways leading to bedrooms.