

Texas State Fire Marshal's Office Functions

The statutes related to the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) are in the Texas Government Code.

Texas Government Code Chapter 417:

- 417.004 (b) The state fire marshal is the chief investigator in charge of the investigation of arson and suspected arson in the state.
- 417.004 (c) The state fire marshal may make or encourage studies of fire protection, including fire administration.
- 417.0051 Fire Prevention and Safety Education. The commissioner, through the state fire marshal shall use pertinent and timely facts relating to fires to develop educational programs and disseminate materials necessary to educate the public effectively regarding methods of fire prevention and safety.
- 417.0075 Investigation of firefighter fatality incidents
- 417.008 Right of Entry; Examination and Correction of Dangerous Conditions: On the complaint of any person, the state fire marshal, at any reasonable time, is entitled to enter any building or premises in the state.
- 417.0081 Inspection of State-Owned or State-Leased Buildings
- 417.0083 Fire Suppression Ratings Schedule
- 417.010 This section relates to the SFMO regulating businesses related to fireworks, fire sprinklers, fire alarms, and fire extinguishers.

State Fire Marshal's Office Breakdown

- Employees: 74
 - Inspectors: # of FTEs - 17
 - Investigators: # FTEs – 22 + 1 crime analyst
 - (includes 5 Canine Handlers)
 - Licensing Investigators: # FTEs - 5
 - Arson Lab: # FTEs - 4
 - Operations: 25
- Annual Budget: \$4,549,873.50
- The majority of staff are based in the field and are located throughout Texas to reduce travel expenses and utilize state vehicles to conduct fire investigations, inspections, and licensing investigations. The remaining staff work at the Hobby State Building located at 333 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas. The Forensic Arson Lab is located at 7915 Cameron Road, Austin, Texas.

Recent Legislation

- The 84th Texas Legislature adopted SB 1105 to allow the SFMO to inspect all state-owned or state-leased buildings and not just the facilities managed by the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC). The bill stipulates the SFMO as the authority having jurisdiction that shall take any action necessary to protect a state building against fire hazards. The SFMO shall coordinate with the State Office of Risk Management (SORM) and work with the facility's responsible party to identify and correct fire hazards.

FY 15 Performance Measure Highlights:

- 645 Fire Investigations
- 2,423 analyzed fire debris samples at the SFMO Forensic Arson Lab

Texas State Fire Marshal's Office Functions

- 14,333 registrations, licenses, and permits issued to fire alarm, fire extinguisher, fire sprinkler, and fireworks firms, individuals, and other regulated entities
- 592 Licensing Investigations
- 8,210 Building Inspections