

## **Bowie County Fire Marshal Duties**

### **Fire Investigation in the County**

**Business fire safety Inspection for businesses, commercial facilities, schools and foster homes**

### **Fire Education and prevention**

**Plan reviews for businesses, commercial facilities, Schools and Churches**

**Assisting other law enforcement agencies**

**Emergency Hazard Material scenes**

### **Forms**

School Fire drill exit form <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/forms/sfmfireindustry/sf242fmdrillrpt.pdf>

Foster Home Inspection <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/documents/fmfsifoster.pdf>

### **Resources**

National Fire Protection Association <https://www.nfpa.org/>

Texas State Fire Marshal Office <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/>

US Fire Administration <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

FEMA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

Texas Department of Health (EMS) <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/>

Texas Commission on Fire Protection <https://www.tcfp.texas.gov/>

Texas State Firefighters & Fire Marshal's ASSN. <https://www.sffma.org/>

International Association of Arson Investigators <https://www.firearson.com/>

East Texas Arson Investigators Association <http://etaia.us/>

Texas Department of Emergency Management <https://tdem.texas.gov/>

Poison Control Center <https://aapcc.org/>

TEEX Fire & Emergency Services <https://teex.org/fire-and-emergency-services/>

Nation Fire Safety Council <https://www.nationalfiresafetycouncil.org/>

American Red Cross <https://www.redcross.org/local/texas/north-texas.html>

Fire house <https://www.firehouse.com/>

Fire Department.net <https://www.firedepartment.net/>

Texas A&M Forestry Service <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/default.aspx>

## **Fire Safety Tips**

These are some helpful fire safety tips to help you prevent fires as well as help in case of fire.

Check the batteries on your smoke detectors **twice yearly**. An easy way to remember this is to check them whenever the time changes in the spring and fall.

Have smoke detectors on every level of your home.

Rental residential properties must have smoke detectors in every sleeping room and halls

Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen.

Have an escape plan and practice the escape plan

Have a safe meeting place outside your home that every member of your family knows to go to in the event of a fire or any emergency.

Keep matches and lighters up where children cannot reach them.

Keep Flammables in safety cans and out of the residence.

Don't use extension cord for permanent use. They are for temporary use only.

A 2012 report by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states that over 15,000 dryer fires occur throughout the United States every year. This is equivalent to roughly 4% of annually reported residential fires. The report also mentions that dryer fires are responsible for 30 deaths, several hundred injuries, and millions of dollars of property damage each year.

## **Signs That Your Dryer Needs to Be Cleaned**

Clothing takes long and/or multiple drying cycles to adequately dry

Laundry room feels warmer than usual

The presence of a musty odor after the drying cycle is complete

Dried clothing is uncommonly hot when removed from the dryer

Lint debris is observed around the dryer lint filter or outside the dryer vent opening

Large amounts of lint collect in the lint trap during a single load

### **Safety Tips for Dryer Fire Prevention**

Have a professional install your dryer. They will make sure the venting is up to code.

Clean the lint trap before and after every load of laundry. Also remove any lint collecting in the drum. Do not operate the dryer without a lint filter.

Remove lint collecting under and/or around the dryer

Have your dryer exhaust pipe cleaned ever three months

Make sure your exhaust pipe and vent is not obstructed internally or externally

Venting duct should be an inflexible, non-ribbed metal (not plastic or coiled foil)

If your dryer runs on gas, have the gas line inspected once a year

Make sure the electric running to your dryer is properly wired and grounded

Keep flammable substances away from the dryer

Every year or two, remove the back of the dryer and clean out any lint that has accumulated inside the dryer

Do not dry clothes while sleeping or away from the house

Do not overload the dryer

Do not dry anything containing foam, rubber, plastic, fiber glass, and/or flammable chemicals