

34.01.02 Fire and Life Safety

Revised [May 19, 2025](#)

Next Scheduled Review: May 19, 2030

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Regulation Summary

This regulation outlines the requirements for fire and life safety programs and practices operated by members of The Texas A&M University System (System). Each and every individual, whether faculty, staff, student, or visitor on a member property, shares a role in fire and life safety.

Definitions

Click to view [Definitions](#).

Regulation

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Fire and life safety is governed by national, state, and locally adopted codes and standards. Fire and life safety programs and practices are designed to help ensure safe work, study and play environments for employees, students, and visitors.
- 1.2 The Texas State Fire Marshal has jurisdictional authority over system-owned and system-leased buildings for the purposes of fire safety (Texas Government Code 417.0082). Texas has adopted National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code and NFPA 1 Fire Code (TAC §34.303). At minimum, the System and members will comply with the current codes adopted by the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO).
- 1.3 The latest edition of International Building Code (IBC), its referenced standards, and other nationally recognized codes and standards will be used for code compliance provisions not specifically addressed by NFPA 1, NFPA 101, and their referenced standards.
- 1.4 For all new construction, additions, modifications, and renovations, the Local Authority Having Jurisdiction (Local AHJ) must be consulted regarding what codes are applicable to the specific project.
- 1.5 The System Authority Having Jurisdiction System (System AHJ) serves as the primary System representative and consults with the SFMO regarding formal interpretation of codes.

- 1.5.1 The Local AHJ will meet the qualifications of fire inspector as defined by NFPA 1031.
- 1.5.2 Where required by Texas Government Code 419.909, the Local AHJ or their appointee will be a Texas Commission on Fire Protection certified fire inspector.
- 1.5.3 The Local AHJ should meet the qualifications for fire and life safety educator as defined by NFPA 1035, fire investigator as defined by NFPA 1033, and fire marshal as defined by NFPA 1037.

2. FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY PROGRAM

- 2.1 Each member program must include applicable provisions and requirements of NFPA 1, NFPA 101, their referenced standards, and other applicable standards and codes as determined by the Local AHJ. Where code conflict is found, the more stringent requirement shall take precedence.
- 2.2 The institution should consider local fire code requirements when possible, and if in compliance with NFPA 1 and NFPA 101.
- 2.3 The System AHJ will be included in all correspondence with the SFMO on matters related to member requests for an alternate method of compliance. When necessary, the System AHJ may consult with SFMO on behalf of the Local AHJ and will review with the Local AHJ any directive given by the SFMO.
- 2.4 Fire and life safety programs must address, but are not limited to the following:
 - 2.4.1 Fire risk analysis of campus buildings and facilities to identify hazardous conditions, unsafe practices, or violations of codes and standards. Inspections must include a process to track implementation of corrective measures.
 - 2.4.2 Procedures for completion of plan reviews, inspections, and acceptance testing for all new construction and renovation projects in accordance with NFPA and/or applicable International Codes (I-Codes).
 - 2.4.3 Inspections, testing, and maintenance of all fire and life safety equipment (fire suppression systems, fire alarm systems, fire pumps, fire extinguishers, kitchen hood systems, etc.).
 - 2.4.4 Requirements to conduct emergency evacuation exercises according to building occupancy.
 - 2.4.5 Ongoing coordination efforts that ensure local fire departments are fully prepared to respond appropriately to any facility.
 - 2.4.6 Community Risk Reduction practices and implementation procedures/plans to address annual fire inspection findings.

- 2.4.7 Public safety education programs within the jurisdiction of the Local AHJ. Examples include general fire safety, fire extinguisher training, cooking fire safety, electrical fire safety, and others as determined by the Local AHJ.
 - 2.4.8 Investigation of fire and life safety incidents including appropriate reporting of incidents to university leadership, SFMO (when required), and the System AHJ.
 - 2.4.9 Processes for managing permitting programs such as hot work, special events, and pyrotechnic, and performing associated inspections.
 - 2.4.10 Member use of a record management system for documentation of fire and life safety program activities.
- 2.5 The Local AHJ will ensure that the owner, operator, tenant, or authorized representative for each occupied facility used for member purposes will develop and maintain a Building Emergency Action Plan (BEAP) that covers protective actions for life safety in that facility. The BEAP will support the member's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), will include those elements listed in NFPA 1, and will be reviewed at least annually.

3. DOCUMENTATION

- 3.1 Documentation is a critical component for the initial acceptance and long-term inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection and life safety systems. Documentation includes but is not limited to checklists, reports, letters, training sign-in sheets, review comments, marked-up drawings and specifications, punch lists, inspection and testing reports as identified by NFPA codes, and any alternate methods of compliance.
- 3.2 The Local AHJ will have unrestricted access to all operations, records, information, property, and personnel to fulfill their responsibilities and will have the independence necessary to be able to carry out duties effectively without fear of retaliation.
- 3.3 Retention of documents will be in accordance with System Regulation *61.99.01 Retention of State Records* except where NFPA codes dictate longer retention periods.

4. WHEN TO NOTIFY SYSTEM

- 4.1 Member institutions shall notify the System AHJ by e-mail of any of the following instances within 24 hours of their occurrence:
 - 4.1.1 A fire incident resulting in injury or property damage.
 - 4.1.2 A fire protection system that may remain out of service overnight.
 - 4.1.3 Special requests made from the member to the SFMO.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Government Code Chapter 417 State Fire Marshal](#)

[Government Code Chapter 419 Texas Commission on Fire Protection](#)

[Texas Administrative Code §34.303 Adopted Standards](#)

[International Codes \(I-Codes\)](#)

[NFPA 1 – Fire Code](#)

[NFPA 101 – Life Safety Code](#)

[NFPA 1031 - Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner](#)

[NFPA 1033 - Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator](#)

[NFPA 1035 - Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist and Youth Firesetter Program Manager Professional Qualifications](#)

[NFPA 1037 - Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications](#)

[Texas State Fire Marshal's Office Notices](#)

[Texas State Fire Marshal's Office Rules](#)

[System Regulation 34.07.01, *Emergency Management Plans*](#)

[System Regulation 61.99.01 *Retention of State Records*](#)

Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this regulation.

Contact Office

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