

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

GRADUATE ALIVE!

**EIGHTH REPORT ON STATE UNIVERSITY FIRE SAFETY PROJECTS
DECEMBER 2003**

**TO THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
AND
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

*As required by the State Appropriations Act for 2004/2005, Article III, Section 34
Fire Safety Issues at University Facilities*

October 2002 thru December 2003

The State Fire Marshal's Office is pleased to present the Eighth Report on the progress of the State University Fire Safety Project, also known as *Graduate Alive!* This report highlights the progress being made related to state university housing inspections and additional initiatives of the State Fire Marshal's Office and the universities. Staff assigned to the *Graduate Alive!* inspection program continue to work with the universities to correct outstanding problems in residential buildings and inspecting full campuses.

Since the project began, the Deputy State Fire Marshals participating in the *Graduate Alive!* project have inspected more than 1,500 residential buildings housing more than 70,000 students. Approximately 1,400 non-residential campus buildings have also been inspected.

Reporting Period Highlights

- Twenty-seven campuses have been fully inspected as well as adjunct facilities providing housing.
- All occupied high-rise dormitories are now retrofitted with automatic fire sprinkler systems. Other corrections required by the initial fire safety inspection reports are completed.
- All state university campuses are completing renovations or have acceptable timelines in place to upgrade all residential buildings.
- All universities are making purposeful progress in correcting the deficiencies noted in the reports for all inspected buildings.

Recent University Fire Incidents

During this reporting period, ten fires occurred at various university facilities.

University of Texas Arlington – Arlington: An explosion occurred at the Aerodynamics Research Center causing minor damage and no injuries. The facility was used for pulse detonation utilizing flammable/combustible gases. Due to the close proximity to other buildings, these types of experiments will not be conducted at this facility in the future. It was also concluded that all other testing using flammable/combustible mixtures would be re-examined before testing would resume.

Two buildings were evacuated when a clothes dryer caught fire in the basement of an academic building on campus. The building fire alarm system activated and the building was evacuated. One security officer was treated for smoke inhalation. The fire caused smoke to back up into another building which caused the fire alarm system to activate and the second building was evacuated. The only fire damage was contained in the clothes dryer. Smoke damage was confined to the basement area of the buildings. No dollar loss has been obtained. The clothes dryer was removed from the building and not replaced.

In October, a major fire event occurred at the central plant building. Part of the building was being demolished to make way for new construction. A second part of the building was being re-roofed. Sparks from a torch ignited the flammable roofing materials resulting in a \$2.25 million fire loss and loss of electrical power to the entire campus, including dormitories. Emergency generators had to be rented to provide minimum power to maintain use of the buildings until power was restored.

Southwest Texas State University – Texas State University San Marcos: A student on the fifth floor of the high rise dormitory caused an estimated \$175,000 in damage to the newly sprinklered building. The student hit the glass bulb in one of the automatic fire sprinkler heads in his room with a soft-air BB, causing the bulb to break and activate the sprinkler system. The water from the sprinkler system ran for approximately one hour and 45 minutes, because floor isolation valves had not been identified to limit tampering and were, therefore, not used by SWTSU staff to limit the water damage. Water ran into the basement causing damage to the elevators and the fire alarm systems. Students in the dorm were relocated to other areas until the dorm reopened. The student was charged with criminal mischief over \$200,000 and is awaiting prosecution.

University of Houston – Houston: A fire in a Student Center closet caused the automatic fire sprinkler system to activate. The fire was confined to the closet by one sprinkler head activation. The university suspects smoking in the closet. Houston Fire Department Officials have not ruled on the cause.

Texas Tech University – Lubbock: A fire occurred on the third floor of a dormitory when a student burnt popcorn in a microwave oven, placed the burnt popcorn on a blanket on the floor in a closet and then shut the closet door in an

attempt to keep the smoke detector in his room from activating. Approximately 15 minutes later, the student noticed smoke coming from the closet, when he opened the door he discovered his closet on fire. The smoke detector activated the building's fire alarm system and the occupants were evacuated. The student was taken to the hospital for possible smoke inhalation and was released a short time later. No other injuries were noted. The smoke and fire damage was limited to the room of origin.

University of North Texas – Denton: During spring break, there were two fires at this university. One fire originated in an air handler motor. Minor damage and no injuries were reported. A second fire occurred when a student placed a metal pan and aluminum foil in a microwave oven and attempted to cook. Damage was confined to the microwave oven, no injuries were reported.

Prairie View A&M University - Prairie View: A fire originated at the University Village Apartment Complex. The fire was caused by a student boiling potpourri on the stove, leaving the apartment unit without turning off the stove. When the water evaporated, the potpourri dried and subsequently ignited causing the automatic fire sprinkler system to activate extinguishing the fire. Damage from the fire was confined to the room of origin and no injuries were noted.

Texas A&M University – Commerce: Two fires occurred at the university. One fire occurred in a dormitory when a student soaked paper and pictures with butane fuel and lit them in a mesh trash can. The student then threw the butane container in the trash can, which exploded. Damage was confined to the student's room, no injuries were noted. The student waited until the flames became substantial and then left the room. The student was arrested and may be charged with arson.

The second fire occurred when an occupant was cooking on the stove when he noticed smoke and fire coming from the burner. It was determined that the fire originated from the wiring on the stove to the front burner. The fire was extinguished with a towel and no other damage was noted. No injuries were noted at this fire.

University of Mary Hardin Baylor – Belton: A student was convicted of arson for the March 23, 2001 fire at the campus. The student was sentenced to three years in federal prison on charges of arson.

Reinspection of all Housing Units

As a result of the above mentioned fires a new series of inspections were conducted at university residential housing throughout the state in the spring and summer of 2003. Results of that inspection effort determined that universities that conducted unannounced inspections and strictly enforced rules and regulations, through fines and other sanctions, had very few violations. At campuses where inspections are pre-announced up to 48 hours in advance of the inspection and/or where there was little or no enforcement of fire safety rules,

numerous violations were found. The violations included use of candles, incense, excessive use of extension cords, interconnecting of electrical power strips, use of hot plates, toaster ovens, cooking grills, improper wiring of florescent lamps, extension cords stapled to walls and ceilings, use of halogen lamps, disabled door closing devices, disabled and removed smoke alarms, and excessive amounts of combustible materials on room walls.

The State Fire Marshal's Office corresponded with university presidents in February 2003 stressing that the fire safety program was much more than meeting minimum structural standards. The fire safety of an institution must include operational programs to ensure that safety rules and standards are enforced for the safety of all residents and staff. Housing departments and student life divisions are the central element in making fire safety a priority in campus residences. The top administration officials must support those efforts.

Deputy State Fire Marshals will conduct unannounced fire safety inspections of university residential housing to ensure enforcement of rules, regulations, and all aspects of the fire safety programs.

Graduate Alive! Project Overview

The State Fire Marshal's Office university inspection program, *Graduate Alive!*, is a multi-tiered process. The components of the process are as follows:

- Each inspection requires an initial survey of the entire building and subsequent communications with the university to establish timelines for corrections and to establish the methods of correction.
- Each building is reinspected at various stages of correction and after completion of corrections to verify repairs.
- On-going, interim communication between the universities and the State Fire Marshal's Office is required to ensure cost effective, prompt compliance.
- The inspection program will also require ongoing review of campus fire safety efforts to maintain the level of fire safety achieved; to protect the lives of students, staff, and visitors to the universities; and to preserve the state's investment.

Graduate Alive! is comprised of three primary phases and several separate initiatives.

Phase I objectives targeted fire-safety problems in high-rise residential facilities. These structures had the greatest risk for disaster due to limited escape potential. This phase placed special emphasis on campuses with existing unresolved complaints, which stemmed from students and parents.

Phase II included inspections of all other on-campus residential facilities. Many of these non high-rise buildings were built between 1930 and 1960.

Phase III includes continued inspection of all other university buildings and monitoring of fire safety project progress in residential buildings. The State Fire Marshal's Inspectors will continue inspecting every building owned by the state on university campuses and at auxiliary locations. The State Fire Marshal's Office estimates that more than 5,000 buildings will require inspections.

The State Fire Marshal's Office acknowledges the budgetary issues facing the state and the universities. The State Fire Marshal's Office is working with the universities to prioritize the buildings according to use and severity of fire safety hazards found. Through close and constant communication with the universities' administrators, the State Fire Marshal's Office will endeavor to address the most egregious problems first and establish reasonable timelines for all corrections. The first priority of the State Fire Marshal's Office, the coordinating board and the legislature is to provide fire-safe dormitories and other campus residential buildings. No requests for time extensions for correcting fire safety concerns in residential buildings have been granted.

Graduate Alive! underscores the commitment of the State Fire Marshal's Office and the universities, and sets the stage for a long-term, comprehensive, cooperative fire safety endeavor. Most Universities are beginning to have an institutional commitment to fire safety. These periodic reports are designed to update state leadership on the efforts of the State Fire Marshal's Office and the substantial efforts being made by state and community public institutions of higher education to ensure a fire-safe future.

***Graduate Alive!* Initiatives**

In addition to the three phases of the main inspection project, the *Graduate Alive!* program includes initiatives directed at the total university fire-safety problem.

Off-Campus Inspection Verification Program: Universities are urged to participate in the off-campus inspection verification program, which is directed at the fraternity and sorority community. The program requires that organizations obtain a fire safety inspection from the fire official with jurisdiction and report that fire inspection to the State Fire Marshal's Office or university. The State Fire Marshal's Office will report to the respective university on the organization's status. The university is, in turn, urged to restrict recognition of any off-campus affiliated organization that does not have a current fire safety inspection. The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University are participating in the program.

Fire Safety Education Outreach Program: To more effectively reach the unregulated off-campus community, the State Fire Marshal's Office has encouraged the universities to establish fire-safety educational outreach programs through their appropriate offices to provide sound fire-safety information to off-campus students. The University of Texas System has assisted in a national effort to sponsor a Web site, entitled *Campus Watch*, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which provides timely fire safety

educational materials targeted at the off-campus audience. The State Fire Marshal is urging each state university campus to take advantage of these resources to extend the message of fire safety to the off-campus community. The University of Texas Arlington and the University of Texas Austin are leading in this program. UT Arlington is incorporating its fall residential fire drill program into a campus event that emphasizes fire safety in residential buildings and the safe evacuation of buildings using theatrical smoke generation to obscure corridors and exits. The University of Texas at Austin has developed a work group within the Dean of Students Office to examine and incorporate fire safety messages and activities in all outreach programs. These programs include orientation of students moving from dormitories to off campus apartments for fire safe apartment living and programs of safe fire safety habits while seeking entertainment in the Austin Night Club scene. The Deans Office is seeking ways to incorporate fire safety into all programs supervised by the Dean's Office.

Off-campus retreat and seminar housing program: A letter was sent to every university president and system chancellor in September 2002 urging that the universities incorporate in contract documents with off-campus providers of retreat and seminar housing notice that the facility meets the appropriate fire-safety standard and has been inspected by the fire official with jurisdiction for the facility. Texas A&M University and The University of Texas Austin are participating and require off campus events to document fire safety inspections.

Campus housing of non-traditional students: The universities have been asked to review the on-campus housing operational plans to be aware of and accommodate the non-traditional resident. All universities use the dormitories to house short-term residents from junior-high age to senior citizens in seminars, camps and retreats. Each university has addressed fire-safety needs for these populations.

Texas Community College Project: Many of our community colleges are within the local jurisdiction of a city fire marshal. A survey was conducted of all fifty community college campuses. After the survey was completed, the State Fire Marshal's Office conducted inspections of residential housing at three community colleges. A local authority was not regularly inspecting these three institutions. These Colleges have responded to the inspections and are upgrading their residential buildings.

University Fire Safety Program Continuation and Maintenance: The State Fire Marshal has notified university presidents that the investment being made in fire safety must be sustained. Preventive maintenance programs, educational initiatives, and enforcement of fire-safety policies must remain a high priority in order to preserve the safe environment being created. Universities must be willing to sanction those individuals and groups that violate campus fire-safety policies or vandalize fire protection systems. Administrations must pay attention to renovation and building change-of-use plans to ensure that fire-safety gains are not lost. Finally, universities must be proactive in their vigilance of campus fire-safety matters.

The University of Texas System as adopted a rule that requires a life safety evaluation of any property acquired through purchase or gift before that property is occupied for university use.

Commonly Observed Fire Safety Violations

The following list identifies the most common types of fire safety violations observed at both state and private universities during the initial, full-campus phase inspections. These fire safety violations provide an awareness of the pervasive nature of the fire safety problems on the university campuses.

- Fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems in the trouble mode or in the alarm mode indicating impaired systems or ones that have not been inspected or serviced by qualified personnel.
- Stairwell doors lacking latching hardware or hardware inoperative.
- Inoperative or missing automatic door closers.
- Corridor fire doors are found propped in the open position throughout every structure that has been inspected.
- Dead-end corridors in buildings, that exceed permissible lengths, have been found in all occupancies inspected.
- Panic hardware instead of fire exit hardware used on fire doors. Panic hardware has a device that allows the latching mechanism to be retracted allowing the door to free swing and is not acceptable on fire doors.
- Lack of emergency lighting and/or exit signs in all types of occupancies.
- Inoperative emergency lighting units and/or exit signs in all types of occupancies.
- Use of extension cords as permanent wiring in all occupancies. Interconnecting or daisy-chaining power strips in computer labs, offices, and residential housing.
- Excessive combustible material in general offices.
- Storage in mechanical equipment rooms and in stairwells.
- Improper storage of flammable liquids, usually in laboratories, maintenance areas, and art studios.
- Hood sashes designed to prevent chemical fumes and vapors from contaminating laboratories were found in the open position in laboratories throughout both state and private university campuses.

- Fume hoods that are not equipped with airflow measuring devices to assure positive air flow to remove fumes and vapors.
- Refrigerators used to store flammable liquids that are not explosion proof.
- Use of double cylinder dead bolt locks that require the use of a key to open on corridor and exit doors in all types of occupancies.
- Exit corridors and stairwells with hollow core or non-fire rated doors instead of doors that will resist the passage of fire for a predetermined amount of time.
- Exit corridors and exit passageways obstructed by furniture, office machines, etc. in all types of occupancies.
- Several buildings have been found with only one means of escape, one exit door. This is also found in multi-level buildings. The first floor may have adequate exits but the upper floors are lacking exit ways.
- Fixed fire extinguishing systems in kitchens that are red tagged, meaning it will not work as designed; yellow tagged, meaning it does not meet the current NFPA requirements; and not tagged. Fixed fire extinguishing systems should be inspected and serviced periodically to ensure proper operation.

Graduate Alive! Project Update

Midwestern State University - Wichita Falls: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on August 7, 2003. Fourteen residential buildings, eight new apartment units, and a new club house were inspected. The apartments are fully sprinklered and are equipped with fire alarm systems with hardwired interconnected smoke alarms in the apartments. Killingsworth Hall is now vacated for complete renovation to include automatic fire sprinkler system and new fire alarm system. All violations listed in previous reports will be corrected prior to the building being reoccupied in the fall of 2004. Parent notification letters are being sent and follow-up supplemental material is being provided to the students. The full campus inspection was conducted in December 2003. Plans are being formulated to prioritize corrections and secure funding for repairs.

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on April 4, 2003 with 64 residential buildings being inspected. The university is making acceptable progress and appears to be complying with established timetables. Written notification has been mailed to the parents of students and the same information is located on the university's web site.

Texas State University - San Marcos: A full campus fire safety inspection was conducted in April, 2003, with 183 buildings, including two new academic buildings, inspected. Battery-powered smoke detectors are still in use. The

university has not provided this office with timetables for the replacement of the battery-powered smoke detectors with ones that receive their electrical power from the building electrical system. The State Fire Marshal's Office is working with the university to establish a timetable for completion of corrections. Parent notification letters are being sent. The stadium skyboxes have been removed from the top of the press box. The underwater submarine structure is no longer in use.

Stephen F. Austin State University - Nacogdoches: A fire safety reinspection of 64 residential buildings was conducted in September, 2003; The university continues to make progress in correcting the remaining violations and is maintaining established timetables. Parent notification letters are being sent.

Sul Ross State University - Alpine: A fire safety inspection of four residential and four academic buildings was conducted on April 9, 2003 with four hazards noted. The fire alarm systems are not being inspected as required. The university is not taking an active part to ensure the fire safety features that have been installed in the buildings are being maintained. The Public Safety Office and the Physical Plant cannot maintain maintenance on the systems without support from Administration.

Texas A&M University-College Station: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on August 18th and 19th, 2003; 38 residential buildings and one new non-residential building were inspected.

Corps of Cadet and Corps-Style residence halls: All violations in the Corps of Cadet and Corps-Style residence halls have been corrected with the exception of the trash chute door violations found in all halls. The university is in the process of rebuilding the chute doors in the trash rooms. New voice fire alarm systems are being phased in to replace the existing fire alarm systems

Balcony-Style residence halls - Fire sprinklers were installed in Fowler Hall. All balcony-style halls are now fully sprinklered.

Modular residence halls. Fire sprinklers have been installed in all modular residential halls with the exception of Rudder, Appelt, Eppright, Wells, Underwood, and Clements. The university plans to complete installation of fire sprinklers in these halls prior to August 31, 2005.

Commons residence halls. Fire sprinkler installation is complete in Aston and Mosher Halls. Sprinkler systems are to be installed in Krueger and Dunn halls prior to August 31, 2005 to correct violations regarding escape windows and corridors not being divided into smoke compartments. Trash chute doors that do not automatically close are being evaluated for replacement.

Other residential buildings:

Fire sprinklers have been installed in the Board of Regents wing of the Memorial Student Center, correcting all violations in this building.

All violations have been corrected in university-owned apartments.

Texas A&M University remains on schedule for fire sprinkler installations and violation corrections in residential facilities.

Of the 752 buildings inspected on the Texas A & M campus, 546 buildings had no violations found or had all violations corrected. Texas A&M University has corrected all violations in many buildings and is developing timelines to correct the remaining violations.

Texas A&M University - Commerce: A fire safety inspection was conducted in December 2002 with 72 buildings inspected and 71 hazards found. Most violations dealt with means of egress and lack of emergency lighting. A fire safety reinspection was conducted on March 24, 2003 with 22 buildings inspected and 16 violations corrected. All major dormitories have completed installation of sprinkler systems. All residential buildings now have new detection and alarm systems that are addressable. The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct the remaining violations.

Tarleton State University - Stephenville: A fire safety inspection of the full campus was completed in March, 2003, with 85 buildings inspected. Plans have been developed to correct deficiencies. The university is leasing a two-story apartment complex for student housing that was inspected on August 8, 2002, with no hazards noted. Housing deficiencies are continuing to be corrected with a final timeline of August 2005. Parental fire safety notification letters have been sent and information is available on the university web site

Texas A&M University - Kingsville: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on March 13, 2003, with 90 buildings inspected. There were three violations corrected in the residential housing and 73 violations corrected in the academic buildings. The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct the violations. Parents have been notified by letter, including a fire safety brochure.

Texas A&M International University - Laredo: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on February 19, 2003 nine buildings inspected and all violations have been corrected.

West Texas A&M University - Canyon: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on April 22, 2003 with 15 buildings inspected and 4 hazards corrected. The university notifies parents when a student registers for classes and applies for housing. There are numerous safety tips in the student residential living handbook to read and sign prior to moving into a dorm. Several large posters are placed in the dorms discussing fire safety issues. The full campus

inspection was conducted in November 2003. The report has not been completed at this time.

Prairie View A & M University - Prairie View: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on December 11, 2002 with 37 buildings inspected and 60 violations corrected. A fire safety reinspection of 31 buildings was conducted on March 19, 2003; with 15 violations had been corrected. The university has allocated funding for some of the more serious items to be corrected. The university is making positive efforts to correct the violations listed in the fire safety report. The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct their deficiencies.

Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi: The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct the remaining violations. No new fire safety reinspections have been conducted since July 10, 2002.

Texas A & M University - Galveston: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on March 18, 2003 with seven buildings inspected; no new violations were noted. The university is progressing with violation corrections in a timely manner.

Texas A&M University – Texarkana: A fire safety inspection of the campus was conducted on October 16, 2003 with five buildings inspected and seven hazards found, no reinspections have been conducted at this time.

Texas Tech University - Lubbock: A fire safety reinspection of residential housing was conducted on February 26, 2003 with 10 buildings inspected and 10 violations corrected. The university has provided a five-year plan to correct all of the dormitory violations. All dormitories are scheduled to have sprinkler systems installed within the next five years. Parental notification is conducted via a post-registration brochure. The university is progressing according to the established and approved timetables. The full campus inspection was completed in November 2003. The report is being drafted at this time.

Texas Woman's University - Denton: A fire safety reinspection of one residential and four academic buildings was conducted on April 21, 2003 with 3 violations corrected in the academic buildings, and 14 new violations noted in the residential buildings. All nonresidential high-rise buildings are scheduled for automatic sprinkler protection by 2003. The university was authorized to sell \$25.5 million in tuition revenue bonds in order to renovate its facilities. Design work is complete for the installation of sprinkler systems in MCL and ACT towers. All violations are projected to be completed by July 2004. The university is adhering to its completion timetables and is progressing toward making necessary corrections. No further reinspections have been conducted at this time.

Texas Woman's University - Houston: The high-rise dormitory has been vacated. The office tower is still in use. A fire safety reinspection of three buildings was conducted on April 8, 2003; all violations with the exception of the Mary Gibbs Jones Building, an 11-story office and classroom building, have been corrected. TWU has completed the land swap and is in the planning stages to

construct a new facility in Houston. In the interim, the university will comply with the recommendations listed in the report dated August 3, 2002, until a new facility is constructed.

University of Texas - Arlington: A fire safety inspection was conducted on the residential housing on May 23, 2003 with 148 residential buildings inspected. All violations are scheduled to be corrected by the end of September 2003. A plan to increase residential inspections by the Environmental Health and Safety Office and the Housing office will improve fire safety in the units. The Housing Office is providing funding for a safety officer to conduct fire safety inspections on a regular basis. The University Safety Office will work closely with Centennial Court Apartment management to ensure rules and regulations are not being violated. The university is working to improve communications between the Safety Office and other university departments to ensure safety is a high priority for staff and faculty. The university has opened three new apartment complexes since the last legislative update. These are three-story, wood frame units with full automatic fire sprinkler systems and full fire alarm systems. The university is continuing to correct violations noted in their third-party inspections conducted by Schirmer Engineering Inc. No fire safety reinspections have been conducted as of this update.

University of Texas - Austin: A fire safety reinspection of all residential buildings was conducted in July 2003. All residence halls are scheduled for installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems. The university is progressing at an accelerated rate, timetables have been established and work is continuing. Parental notification was accomplished by letter and notice on the university web site. By the end of August 2003, the university had 75% of all dormitories protected by sprinklers. The following academic, and events buildings are under renovation and automatic fire sprinkler retrofits: Erwin Special Events Center, Harry Ransom Center and the Communications Building. Improved water mains for fire protection are being designed and installed. Bass Concert Hall is slated for major fire safety improvements. Controls have been instituted through the Environmental Health and Safety Department and Facilities Department for campus-based building repair and building use changes. The university maintains a strong commitment to fire safety programming and correction of deficiencies. Adjunct campuses at the McDonald Observatory, Winedale Institute, and the Marine Science Institute have completed all outstanding repairs including housing deficiencies.

University of Texas San Antonio: A fire safety inspection of two residential buildings was conducted on April 24, 2003 with no violations found. Inspection closed.

University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston: A fire safety reinspection of one building was conducted on April 11, 2003, with nine violations found and one corrected. This inspection was generated through a complaint.

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin – Academics: A fire safety inspection was conducted on January 15, 2003 with 14 buildings inspected.

There are several issues dealing with egress from several buildings, lack of exit signs and audio/visual devices and manual fire alarm pull boxes at exit doors. Plans are being formulated to sprinker the gym.

University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College: A fire safety reinspection of the campus was conducted on April 6, 2003 with 38 buildings being inspected. The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct the violations in the report.

University of Texas - Dallas: The university has made progress in correcting violations found on campus. A fire safety reinspection was conducted on April 23, 2003 with 21 buildings being inspected and 20 violations being corrected. A fire safety inspection of 63 buildings used for housing was conducted on May 16, 2003 with six hazards found.

University of Texas - El Paso: A fire safety reinspection of 19 buildings was conducted on March 6, 2003, with 89 violations being corrected. The university is in the process of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in their high rise buildings. The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct the violations listed in the report.

University of Texas Pan American - Edinburg: A fire safety reinspection of the campus was conducted on May 6, 2003; with 48 buildings being inspected and 96 violations corrected. The university is making timely corrections regarding the violations. This office received a letter from the university stating that all remaining violations should be corrected by the end of December 2004.

University of Houston – Houston: A fire safety inspection of the campus was conducted January 13, 2003 with 153 buildings being inspected. The residential housing inspection was conducted on April 9, 2003 with 15 buildings inspected. Violations included candles and cooking equipment in sleeping rooms. No fire safety reinspections have been conducted as of this update.

University of Houston - Clear Lake: A fire safety reinspection of three buildings was conducted on Dec. 10, 2002, with seven violations being corrected. A fire safety reinspection was also conducted on one academic building and 11 residential buildings on March 18, 2003 with four violations being corrected. The University of Houston-Clear Lake is making some progress in addressing the fire safety problems.

University of Houston at Victoria: A fire safety inspection was conducted on November 6, 2002 with six buildings inspected and nine hazards noted. A fire safety reinspection was conducted on July 7, 2003 with six buildings inspected and five hazards corrected. The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct the remaining violations.

University of North Texas - Denton: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on February 19, 2003 with 22 buildings being inspected and 31 violations corrected and two new violations noted dealing with a fire alarm panel and a

stairwell door not latching. The university is progressing to correct the remaining violations however cooperation with some departments needs improvement. None of the violations listed regarding the laboratories have been corrected. The person in charge of the labs indicated he did not have a copy of the report and could not answer questions as to why corrections had been made. A fire safety reinspection was conducted on April 22, 2003 with eight academic buildings and 25 residential buildings being inspected. There were eight violations corrected in the academic buildings and 30 new violations found in the residential buildings.

Nine buildings have been approved for new fire alarm systems, however, as of this inspection, the work has not been put out for bids. Problems still remain in the laboratories, lack of communication and or cooperation between different university departments has resulted in non-compliance. The university safety office has provided the departments with sufficient correspondence to correct the violations. The university has done a good job in maintaining minimum standards in the residential housing. Candles were found in several fraternity and sorority sleeping rooms. The university applies penalties to achieve compliance. A meeting was held in July with the State Fire Marshal's Office and members of the university to bridge the communications gap between the two agencies. The meeting was productive and the results should be seen during the next fiscal year.

Texas State Technical College - Harlingen: A fire safety reinspection of 17 buildings was conducted on March 13, 2003, with 27 violations being corrected. The university is progressing in a timely manner to correct the remaining violations.

Texas State Technical College - Sweetwater: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on May 13, 2003, with 16 buildings inspected, two hazards were found and one hazard corrected.

Texas State Technical College - Waco: This campus has a multi-unit housing area of one- and two-family dwellings that are rented to the university community and the public. Of the 92 residences inspected, eight were found to have inoperative smoke detectors due to missing or inoperative batteries. Approximately 90% of the units inspected still had inoperative windows in sleeping rooms for secondary means of escape. University maintenance personnel have been directed to make necessary repairs to windows to bring buildings into compliance.

Texas Southern University: The university purchased an existing apartment complex for student housing. The State Fire Marshal's Office inspected each type of building and made recommendations to the University to provide a safe experience for students. A report was issued to the university and all recommendations are to be corrected prior to student occupancy.

Adjunct Campus Inspections

Texas Tech University Center - Junction: The university has provided a timeline of August 31, 2004 to have all violations corrected. The university is adhering to the established timetables. No further reinspections have been conducted as of this update.

University of Texas - Winedale Historical Center: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on July 10, 2003, with ten buildings being inspected. The residential building has been equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

Texas Community College Project Inspections Conducted

Grayson County College - Denison: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on February 20, 2003 with six buildings being inspected. The university is correcting violations in a timely manner.

Panola College - Carthage: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on December 10, 2002 with five buildings inspected with no previously identified hazards corrected. No fire safety reinspections have been conducted as of this update. All violations were scheduled to be corrected by August 31, 2003, or funding would be requested in the 2002-2003, budget.

Amarillo College Technical Center – Residential Buildings: A fire safety reinspection was conducted on April 25, 2003 with 170 buildings inspected and 340 hazards being corrected. The university expects to have the remaining violations corrected by Sept. 1, 2003. No other fire safety reinspections have been conducted at this time.

South Plains College – Levelland: A fire safety inspection was conducted on June 5, 2002 with 26 buildings inspected and 63 hazards noted. A fire safety reinspection was conducted on May 19, 2003 with 14 residential and 12 academic buildings inspected. Eight violations were corrected in the residential buildings, however 11 new violations were noted. Three hazards were corrected in the academic buildings. The university has corrected some items. No closing devices have been installed on the sleeping room doors to limit the spread of heat and smoke should a fire occur, the lack of exit signs, emergency lighting, and the use of double cylinder deadbolt locking devices on exit doors that require a key to unlock. The university is not maintaining all of their systems. The university has sent this office a letter stating timetable for corrections. All hazards are projected to be corrected by the end of 2005.

Private Universities

Howard Payne University - Brownwood: A fire safety inspection was conducted on August 14, 2002, of four dormitory buildings as a result of a complaint. The buildings have inadequate fire detection and alarm systems. The

university is preparing a plan to correct the deficiencies. A letter was received from the university stating the violations that have been corrected and providing a timetable for the remaining corrections to be corrected. No reinspections have been conducted as of this update.

Mary Hardin Baylor University – Belton A fire safety reinspection of 35 buildings was conducted on December 18, 2002 with 70 violations corrected and two new violations found. The City Fire Marshal accompanied state inspectors on this inspection and is following the progress of needed hazard abatement. The State Fire Marshal's Office is continuing to monitor progress.