



Texas Board of Professional Engineers  
*Engineering For A Better Texas*

## The Texas Board of Professional Engineers' (TBPE) Board e-Newsletter

December 17, 2014

### **TBPE Would Like to Wish You All a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!**

The TBPE eNewsletter is your quarterly update on information about the Texas PE License and Licensing Board and is a supplement to the TBPE Express annual printed newsletter.

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#### **Criminal History Record Check - REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW. DON'T WAIT!**

By law, all active PEs must complete a one-time, criminal history record check (CHRC) prior to renewing their license. Everyone with an ACTIVE DECEMBER PE renewal needs to make sure they do it ASAP. All other PEs are strongly encouraged to complete the process early.

- **In State Engineers:** After successfully completing the fingerprint session at MorphoTrust, the renewal bar will be removed the next day. The agency receives a data file daily from MorphoTrust. If for some reason the bar is not removed at the time you wish to renew, you can enter your TCN (Tracking Control Number provided by MorphoTrust) and the date the fingerprint was taken in ECHO to proceed.
- **Out of State Engineers:** We recommend that you mail the fingerprint cards through a carrier that provides tracking or a signature confirmation. Keep this tracking information for your records. You can renew online as soon as you mail in your fingerprint card. Just enter your mail tracking information and the registration ID assigned by MorphoTrust.

For background information on this requirement, instructions or frequently asked questions, go to <http://engineers.texas.gov/recordcheck.html>

#### **84th Legislative Session - Starts January 13, 2015**

The 84th legislature is currently pre-filing bills. TBPE is reviewing all bills for relevance or impact to Professional Engineering and will include bills we are tracking on this page <http://engineers.texas.gov/legislature84.html> as they are filed. TBPE has no bills to report at this time. There is a link to this information on the homepage.

#### **Board Meeting Update**

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers Quarterly Board and Committee Meetings were

held November 19-20, 2014. Highlights include the following:

- **EAOR#38-Direct Supervision of Engineering Performed in Overseas Office.** The new policy advisory was approved. Refer to: <http://engineers.texas.gov/nm/EAOR38Response.pdf>
- **Disciplinary Actions** - All enforcement actions approved in the board meeting are posted on the TBPE website. Enforcement actions are reported based on the date of the board meeting at which the actions were taken. Refer to: <http://engineers.texas.gov/disciplinary.htm>
- **Video Clips** - Streaming video of the Board Meeting is available at <https://engineers.texas.gov/recordings.htm> Viewing these recordings qualifies for continuing education credit under the category of self-directed study. A maximum of five credit hours may be accrued for self-directed study.

### **When do you need a PE on a building project?**

Have you ever wondered when a PE is needed on a project? Have you needed to explain to a client or a governmental body when a PE is needed?

TBPE has developed a flowchart to determine if a Professional Engineer is required when a Texas project involves the design, erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair of, or the creation of plans and specs for a building. Use this one page diagrammatic to make sure your project is in compliance with the Texas Engineering Practice Act. It is a great reference for engineers, plan reviewers, city and county officials, and owners. Go to <http://engineers.texas.gov/downloads/TBPEDiagrammatic2014.pdf> to download a copy.

### **Computer Based Testing**

The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam is now being delivered via computer-based testing and is available year round instead of just two times per year. Please encourage all young engineers to register online and take the FE exam - they don't need to wait for April or October any more. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.ncees.org>

### **Webinars and Outreach**

TBPE continues to offer ethics outreach presentations both in person and in a webinar format for the convenience of our licensees. The free webinars have been so well received that we are now adding additional events as needed.

- **Online Ethics Webinars:** The next ethics webinars are March 6, 2015, June 4, 2015 and September 2, 2015. Each event is limited to 1,000 attendees. Registration links for all webinars are posted at: <http://engineers.texas.gov/webinar> one month prior to each event.
- **Schedule a TBPE Presentation:** If you are interested in scheduling a live TBPE ethics presentation at your workplace, refer to our outreach page at: <http://engineers.texas.gov/outreach.html>

And more:

Give us feedback on how we are doing by filling out our customer service survey. Please visit our website at <http://engineers.texas.gov/feedback> or call us for a paper survey. We want to hear your suggestions on how we can improve agency operations and service delivery.

In keeping with our efforts to modernize and increase communication with our licensees and the public, you can now follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and via an RSS feed. Join today!

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To contact the Board, please visit our website at: <http://engineers.texas.gov/>

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