



# State Fire Marshal's Office

PO Box 12107 | Austin, TX 78711 | 512-676-6800 | [tdi.texas.gov/fire](http://tdi.texas.gov/fire)

SF229 | 0422

## Fire Alarm License, Registration, and Test Information

### Instructions

- Licenses are issued to individuals; registrations are issued to companies.
- Applications for the company and individual must be submitted together in situations where both the company and the individual are new.
- An application for a license must be sent with a fingerprint receipt, unless the applicant already has [fingerprints](#) on file with State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO).
- A renewal notice will be sent 90 days before your license expiration date. After your initial renewal, you will be sent notices every two years.

### Registrations

- A company cannot be registered without a licensed employee.
- To be issued an Alarm Certificate of Registration (ACR), your designated employee must hold a Fire Alarm Technician (FAL), Fire Alarm Planning Superintendent (APS), or Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent (RAS) license. The Residential Fire Alarm Technician (RAL) license alone is not enough for an ACR.

#### ► Alarm Certificate of Registration (ACR)

If your company is in the business of fire detection devices or systems, you must have an ACR. The extent of the work allowed by the company (plan, certify, lease, sell, service, install, monitor, or maintain fire detection devices or systems) will depend on the license held by your employees.

To obtain an ACR:

1. Submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
2. Submit a Certificate of Insurance ([SF239](#)) for bodily injury and property damage.
3. Provide the name of the designated full-time employee who is or will be licensed on the ACR application. Your designated full-time employee must hold an FAL, APS, or RAS license issued by SFMO.
4. Include form(s):
  - [SF033](#) for transferring an existing license with the ACR application; and/or
  - [SF032](#) for new individual licensee applications with the ACR application.

5. Submit the complete application, required documents, additional forms, and all applicable fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

#### ► **Alarm Branch Office Certificate of Registration**

You must have an alarm branch office certificate of registration for each separate office location that does the same business as the company with the ACR.

To obtain an ACR – Branch Office:

1. Submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
2. Provide the name of the designated full-time employee who is or will be licensed on the ACR application. Your designated full-time employee must hold an FAL, APS, or RAS license issued by SFMO.
3. Include form(s)
  - [SF033](#) for transferring an existing license with the ACR application if the employee is not listed with your company; or
  - [SF032](#) for new individual licensee applications with the ACR application if the employee is not currently licensed by SFMO.
4. Submit the complete application, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

#### ► **Alarm Certificate of Registration – Single-Station (ACR-SS)**

If your company plans, certifies, leases, sells, services, installs, monitors, or maintains only single-station devices, your company must have an ACR-SS.

To obtain an ACR – Single-Station:

1. Submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration Application ([SF031](#)).
2. Submit a Certificate of Insurance ([SF239](#)) for bodily injury and property damage.
3. Submit a letter stating, *"the company will only engage in the business of planning, certifying, leasing, selling, servicing, installing, monitoring, or maintaining single-station devices which are not part of or connected to any other detection device or system in a single-family or two-family residence."*
4. Provide the name of the designated full-time employee who is or will be licensed on the ACR application.
5. Include forms:

- [SF033](#) for transferring an existing license with the ACR application; or
- [SF032](#) for new individual licensee applications with the ACR application.

6. Submit the complete application, required documents, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

## Individual licenses

An individual cannot be issued a license until employed by a registered company.

### ► Fire Alarm Planning Superintendent (APS)

An individual with an APS license is permitted to sell, plan, install, certify, service, and monitor all types of fire alarm or detection devices or systems.

To obtain an APS:

1. You must meet one of the following requirements:
  - Have a current Electronic Security Association ([ESA](#)) Level III Fire Alarm Designer certification.
  - Pass the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies ([NICET](#)) Level III Fire Alarm Systems test.
  - Be a licensed Texas Professional Engineer.
2. Pass the Fire Alarm Statute & Rules [TFM11](#) test. The study material for the TFM11 test is the [Fire Alarm Statute & Rules](#).
3. Have a [fingerprint](#) background check done if one is not already on file with SFMO.
4. Submit a Fire Alarm License Application ([SF032](#)).
5. Provide the name of the company where the employee will be registered. If the company is not licensed with SFMO, the company will need to submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
6. Submit the complete applications, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

### ► Fire Alarm Technician (FAL)

An individual with an FAL is permitted to sell, install, certify, service, and monitor all types of fire alarm or detection devices or systems. An FAL is not allowed to do any type of planning.

To obtain an FAL:

1. Pass these tests:
  - Fire Alarm Statute & Rules [TFM11](#) test. The study material for the TFM11 test is the [Fire Alarm Statute & Rules](#).
  - Fire Alarm Technician [TFM12](#) test. The technician exam may be waived if an individual holds a current Electronic Security Association ([ESA](#)) Level II Fire Alarm Technician certification or by passing the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies ([NICET](#)) Level II test.
2. Have a [fingerprint](#) background check done if one is not already on file with SFMO.
3. Submit a Fire Alarm License Application ([SF032](#)).
4. Provide the name of the company where the employee will be registered. If the company is not licensed with SFMO, the company will need to submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
5. Submit the complete applications, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

#### ► **Fire Alarm Monitoring Technician (AMT)**

An individual with an AMT is only permitted to monitor residential or commercial fire alarm or detection devices or systems.

To obtain an AMT:

1. Pass these tests:
  - Fire Alarm Statute & Rules [TFM11](#) test. The study material for the TFM11 test is the [Fire Alarm Statute & Rules](#).
  - Fire Alarm Technical [TFM14](#) test.
2. Have a [fingerprint](#) background check done if one is not already on file with SFMO.
3. Submit a Fire Alarm License Application ([SF032](#)).
4. Provide the name of the company where the employee will be registered. If the company is not licensed with SFMO, the company will need to submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
5. Submit the complete applications, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

### ► Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent (RAS)

An individual with an RAS is permitted to sell, plan, install, certify, service, and monitor fire alarm or detection devices or systems in one- and two-family dwellings. An RAS can also perform all the functions of an FAL.

To obtain an RAS:

1. Pass these tests:
  - Fire Alarm Statute & Rules [TFM11](#) test. The study material for the TFM11 test is the [Fire Alarm Statute & Rules](#).
  - Fire Alarm Technical [TFM12](#) test. The technical exam may be waived if an individual holds a current Electronic Security Association ([ESA](#)) Level II Fire Alarm Technician certification or by passing the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies ([NICET](#)) Level II test.
  - Fire Alarm Residential [TFM13](#) test.
2. Have a [fingerprint](#) background check done if one is not already on file with SFMO.
3. Submit a Fire Alarm License Application ([SF032](#)).
4. Provide the name of the company where the employee will be registered. If the company is not licensed with SFMO, the company will need to submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
5. Submit the complete applications, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

### ► Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent - Single Station (RAS-SS)

An individual with an RAS-SS is permitted to only sell, plan, install, certify, and service single-station heat or smoke detectors that are not connected to any other detection device or system, in one- or two-family dwellings.

To obtain an RAS-SS:

1. Pass these tests:
  - Fire Alarm Statute & Rules [TFM11](#) test. The study material for the TFM11 test is the [Fire Alarm Statute & Rules](#).
  - Fire Alarm Residential [TFM13](#) test.
2. Have a [fingerprint](#) background check done if one is not already on file with SFMO.
3. Submit a Fire Alarm License Application ([SF032](#)).

4. Provide the name of the company where the employee will be registered. If the company is not licensed with SFMO, the company will need to submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
5. Submit the complete applications, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

► **Residential Fire Alarm Technician (RAL)**

An individual with an RAL is permitted to install, service, inspect, and certify residential single-family or two-family fire alarm or detection systems. A fire alarm certificate of registration cannot be issued to a company that only employs a person with an RAL license.

To obtain an RAL:

1. Complete a residential fire alarm technician course conducted by a training school approved by SFMO.
2. Have a [fingerprint](#) background check done if one is not already on file with SFMO.
3. Submit a Fire Alarm License Application ([SF032](#)).
4. Provide the name of the company with which the employee will be registered. If the company is not licensed with SFMO, the company will need to submit a Fire Alarm Certificate of Registration application ([SF031](#)).
5. Submit the complete applications, additional forms, and all fees at the same time.

**Note:** Please send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.

## Tests

Work permitted by the type of licenses											Required tests <sup>2</sup>					
Type of licenses	Commercial					1 & 2 Family Dwelling					Tests					
	Plan	Install	Certify <sup>1</sup>	Service <sup>3</sup>	Monitor	Plan	Install	Certify <sup>1</sup>	Service <sup>3</sup>	Monitor	Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11	NICET III	Fire Alarm Technician TFM12	Fire Alarm Residential TFM13	Fire Alarm Monitoring TFM14	Approved Instruction Course
Fire Alarm Planning Superintendent (APS)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X <sup>5</sup>				
Fire Alarm Technician (FAL)		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X <sup>4</sup>			
Fire Alarm Monitoring Technician (AMT)					X					X	X				X	
Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent (RAS)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X <sup>4</sup>	X		
Residential Fire Alarm Superintendent – Single Station Only (RAS-SS)						X	X	X	X		X			X		
Residential Fire Alarm Technician (RAL)							X	X	X							X

<sup>1</sup> “Certify” means that the licensee certifies that the system meets Chapter 6002 requirements. Certify does not mean the licensee can issue a certificate or placard stating that the system meets central station requirements.

<sup>2</sup> The technical testing requirements (other than Statute & Rules TFM11) may be waived for a professional engineer licensed in Texas.

<sup>3</sup> "Service" includes inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or testing.

<sup>4</sup> This test can be replaced by meeting the exam requirements for National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies ([NICET](#)) Level II, or by obtaining a current certification through Electronic Security Association ([ESA](#)) at Level II Fire Alarm Technician.

<sup>5</sup> This test can be replaced by meeting the exam requirements for National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies ([NICET](#)) Level III, or by obtaining a current certification through Electronic Security Association ([ESA](#)) at Level III Fire Alarm Designer.

## Scheduling a test

Tests are registered through PSI Exams Online. You may schedule your test either:

- Online at <https://www.psiexams.com/txfire>;
- By phone: 800-733-9267; or
- By email: [examschedule@psionline.com](mailto:examschedule@psionline.com).

## Test description

- All tests are closed book.
- Tests consist of 50 questions that are true/false or multiple choice.
- Questions may refer to a drawing, chart, or figure included with the test.
- Technical test questions are based on the adopted standards.
- No questions are based on specific manufacturer's equipment other than those generally referenced by an [NFPA](#) standard.

## Test scores

- You must have a passing score of 70% or better.
- PSI will send a copy of your test scores to SFMO.

## Test restrictions

You may schedule each type of test only once a week and no more than three times within a 12-month period.

## Test references

### ► Fire Alarm Statute & Rules TFM11 test<sup>5</sup>

All questions on this test are based on the [Texas Insurance Code, Chapter 6002, "Fire Detection and Alarm Device Installation and the Fire Alarm Rules"](#) and Section 34.600 of the, "Texas



[Administrative Code, Title 28, the Fire Alarm Rules.](#)" This information may be downloaded from our website at: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/documents/fmstatalarm.pdf>.

► **Fire Alarm Technician TFM12 test<sup>3,5</sup>**

Most questions on this test are based on the fire alarm sections contained in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards adopted in the rules. See the [rules](#) to determine the latest edition date of the adopted standard.

The Fire Alarm Technician test includes the following standard (except the chapter on Household Fire Alarms).

- [NFPA 72](#) - National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code<sup>1</sup>

The Technician Qualifying test includes only Articles 760, 300, and other articles referenced in the following standards:

- [NFPA 70](#) - National Electrical Code Article 760 & 300<sup>1</sup>
- [NFPA 13](#) - Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems<sup>1</sup>
- [NFPA 17](#) - Standard for Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems<sup>1</sup>
- [NFPA 17A](#) - Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems<sup>1</sup>
- [NFPA 25](#) - Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems<sup>1</sup>
- [NFPA 90A](#) - Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems<sup>1</sup>

The Fire Alarm Technician test questions are based on the adopted standards. There may be questions based on practical knowledge of general electrical wiring practices or principles of electricity. There are no intentional "trick" questions.

Questions on the test include, but are not limited to, the following subjects:

1. Identifying the correct applicable NFPA standard.
2. Definition of types of equipment and circuits.
3. Selection of the proper type of wire and cable.
4. Operating principles of various types of detectors.
5. Location and limitation for the spacing of:
  - a. Detection devices; and
  - b. Notification devices.
6. Principles, requirements, installation, and use of:
  - a. Detection circuits;
  - b. Supervisory circuits; and

c. Notification circuits.

7. Requirements and frequency for testing of alarms.

► **Fire Alarm Residential TFM13 test<sup>3,5</sup>**

This test is based only on information contained in the chapter on "Household Fire Alarm Systems" of the [NFPA 72, "National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code."](#)<sup>1</sup>

Questions on the Fire Alarm Residential test include, but are not limited to, the following subjects relating to household fire alarm systems:

1. Detector type, location, and spacing.
2. Required quantity of detectors.
3. Single and multiple station detector requirements.
4. Power supplies.
5. Maintenance and tests.

► **Fire Alarm Monitoring TFM14 test<sup>3,5</sup>**

All questions on this test are based on the two following standards. See the [Fire Alarm rules](#) to determine the latest edition date of the adopted standard.

- [NFPA 72 - National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code](#)<sup>1</sup> - See chapter on Supervising Station Fire Alarm Systems and other chapters referenced therein.
- UL 827 Central-Station Alarm Services<sup>4</sup>

► **[National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies \(NICET\) Level II or Level III test<sup>2,3</sup>](#)**

This is a series of tests administered by NICET. A copy of NICET's notification letter confirming the applicant's successful completion of the testing requirements for certification at the required Level II or Level III in Fire Protection Engineering Technology and Fire Alarm Systems, must be provided to SFMO.

► **[Electronic Security Association \(ESA\)](#)<sup>6</sup>**

ESA is a national training school. Proof of certification at Level II or Level III must be provided to SFMO. Certifications must not be expired.

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> These publications can be purchased through the National Fire Protection Association; [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

<sup>2</sup> These tests are administered and scheduled by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET); <http://www.nicet.org>.

<sup>3</sup> The technical testing requirements (other than Statute & Rules TFM11) may be waived for a professional engineer licensed in Texas.

<sup>4</sup> This publication can be purchased by contacting Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL); [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com).

<sup>5</sup> These tests are registered through PSI Exams Online; <https://www.psiexams.com/txfire>.

<sup>6</sup> These tests are administered and scheduled by the Electronic Security Association (ESA); [www.ESAweb.org](http://www.ESAweb.org).

## Fees

### ► Company certificate of registration fees

Certificate of registrations	Initial fee	Renewal fee (2 year)
Main office	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Branch office (each)	\$ 150	\$ 300
Single-Station only	\$ 250	\$ 500

- To obtain a duplicate registration or to revise your registration, send form [SF227](#) and a fee of \$20 to SFMO.
- Send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.
- All fees are nonrefundable, except for overpayments resulting from mistakes of law or fact.
- Late fees are assessed as required by the statute and rules.

### ► Individual fire alarm license fees

Type of license	Initial fee	Renewal fee (2 year)
Alarm Planning Superintendent (APS)	\$ 120	\$ 200
Fire Alarm Technician (FAL)	\$ 120	\$ 200
Alarm Monitoring Technician (AMT)	\$ 120	\$ 200
Residential Alarm Superintendent (RAS)	\$ 120	\$ 200
Residential Alarm Superintendent – Single Station (RAS-SS)	\$ 120	\$ 200
Residential Alarm Technician (RAL)	\$ 50	\$ 100

- To obtain a duplicate license, change or add an employer, or change your address, send form [SF033](#) and a fee of \$20 to SFMO.

- Send only one payment to cover all fees. Fee payments for various applications need to be combined.
- All fees are nonrefundable, except for overpayments resulting from mistakes of law or fact.
- Late fees are assessed as required by the statute and rules.