Texas Department of Insurance
Windstorm Inspections Program/Engineering Services Program
Newsletter

February/March 2018

Phone Menu Update

You can still reach us at 800-248-6032, but we've updated our phone menu! Please see the new selections, below:

1- TWIA
2- Intake
3- Intake
4- Field offices
   1. Beaumont
   2. La Marque
   3. Angleton
   4. Corpus Christi
5- Engineering Services
6- Dial by name or extension
7- Spanish

Job Postings

TDI is hiring, come join our team!

- The Windstorm Inspections Program area has two vacant positions for windstorm inspectors (Angleton and Beaumont).
- Windstorm Intake has one position (Austin).
- Engineering Services Program has three vacant positions, one for an Engineering Specialist and two for Professional Engineers (Austin).

Check out the postings and get an application on our website: www.tdi.texas.gov/jobs/index.html.

Windstorm System Reminders

- Please do not set up applications without a full address.
- To avoid multiple cancellations, please refrain from setting up applications before being officially hired for the inspection.

Wind Speed Comparisons

ASCE 7-05 vs. ASCE 7-10

The adopted building code standards for the Windstorm Program are the 2006 International Building Code (IBC), the 2006 International Residential Code (IRC), and the Texas Revisions for each. The referenced standard in the 2006 Codes for wind load design, titled, "Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures," is ASCE 7-05. For the three zones in the designated catastrophe area, the wind speeds are: Inland II- 110 mph (3-second gust); Inland I- 120 mph (3-second gust); and Seaward- 130 mph (3-second gust).

The IBC and IRC codes from 2012 and 2015 reference the standard ASCE 7-10 for wind load design. In ASCE 7-10; the wind speed maps are based on the ultimate design 3-second gust values. The minimum wind speeds from ASCE 7-10 that are equivalent to ASCE 7-05 wind speeds used in the designated catastrophe area are as follows: Inland II- 143 mph; Inland I- 155 mph; and Seaward- 168 mph.

When using the ASCE 7-10 ultimate wind speeds to determine pressure, the designer must convert the "ultimate" design pressures from ASCE 7-10 back to the "allowable stress design" by multiplying the "ultimate" velocity pressure, q_z, by 0.6. There will be a slight difference in the velocity pressures between the standards because ASCE 7-05 has Case 1 and Case 2 for exposure category "B," where Case 1 is for low rise buildings and Case 2 is for all other cases. For exposure "C" categories when comparing ASCE 7-05 and ASCE 7-10, the velocity pressures should be the same, or very close, when compared to the "allowable stress" level.

If you decide to use ASCE 7-10 because a local building department specifies a more recent version of the IBC and IRC codes than required by the Windstorm Program, it is critical to use the equivalent "ultimate design" 3-second gust values listed in the table below for each zone to ensure compliance with the Windstorm Program adopted standards.

Catastrophe Zone	ASCE 7-05 Wind Speed (mph) Occupancy Category II	Equivalent ASCE 7-10 Wind Speed (mph) Risk Category II
Inland II	110	143
Inland I	120	155
Seaward	130	168

TDI Holidays

Monday, February 19, President's Day – TDI is closed

Friday, March 2, Texas Independence Day – Light staff