

TDI **InsurED**

How the State Fire Marshal's Office helps Texans

May 9, 2024

TDI | Texas State Fire Marshal's Office



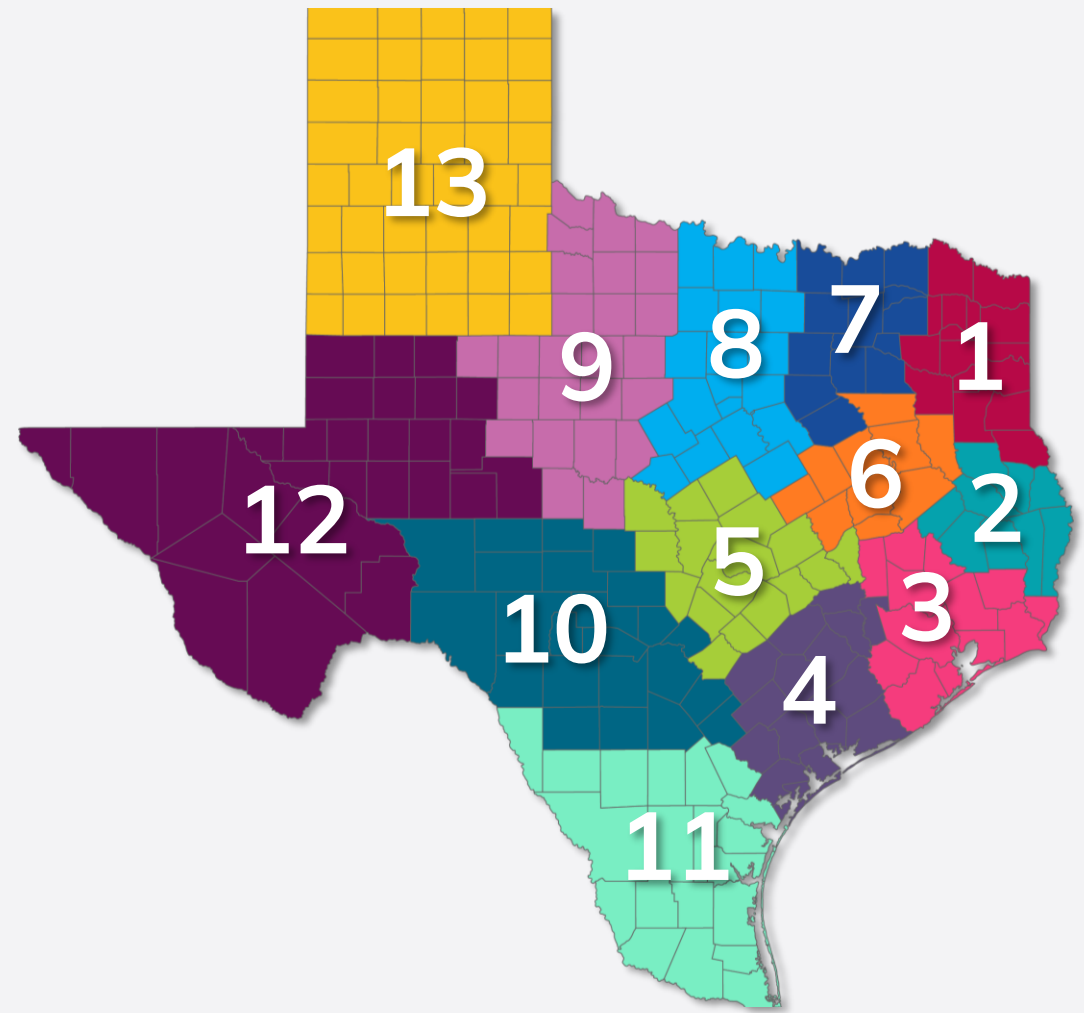
Mission

The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) will reduce the loss of life and property through prevention, education, and protection.

Function

- The primary function of SFMO is to reduce the risk and impact of fire.
- The function directly and dramatically impacts TDI's mission to protect insurance consumers.

Regions



- Fire scene investigations
 - Origin and cause investigations.
 - Accelerant detection canines.
 - Drone assistance.
- Firefighter fatality investigations.
- Forensic Science Commission / Science Advisory Workgroup.

TDI | Origin and cause investigations

Any community that has suffered a fire-related incident may contact SFMO for assistance.

However, the demand for investigation services requires a protocol that allocates resources most effectively.

1. Fires that resulted in death, significant property damage, or pose a serious public health and safety threat.
2. Fires believed to be the work of a serial arsonist, related to hate crime, or where the operation of a vital public institution is compromised.

TDI | Origin and cause investigators

- Average over 500 investigations a year.
- Three lieutenants.
- Four sergeants.
- 11 investigators.

70 years

Combined state service

214 years

Combined fire service

216 years

Combined law enforcement service

TDI | Accelerant detection canine teams

- Five canine teams in Texas.
 - One lieutenant.
 - Four sergeants.
- Canine teams consist of a certified peace officer or arson investigator handler and a canine certified and trained to detect hydrocarbons.
- Average 400 responses per year.
- Locates and collects evidence.
- Assists with scene safety, diagramming, on-scene interviews, fire debris removal, and fire pattern analysis.

88 years

Combined state service

130 years

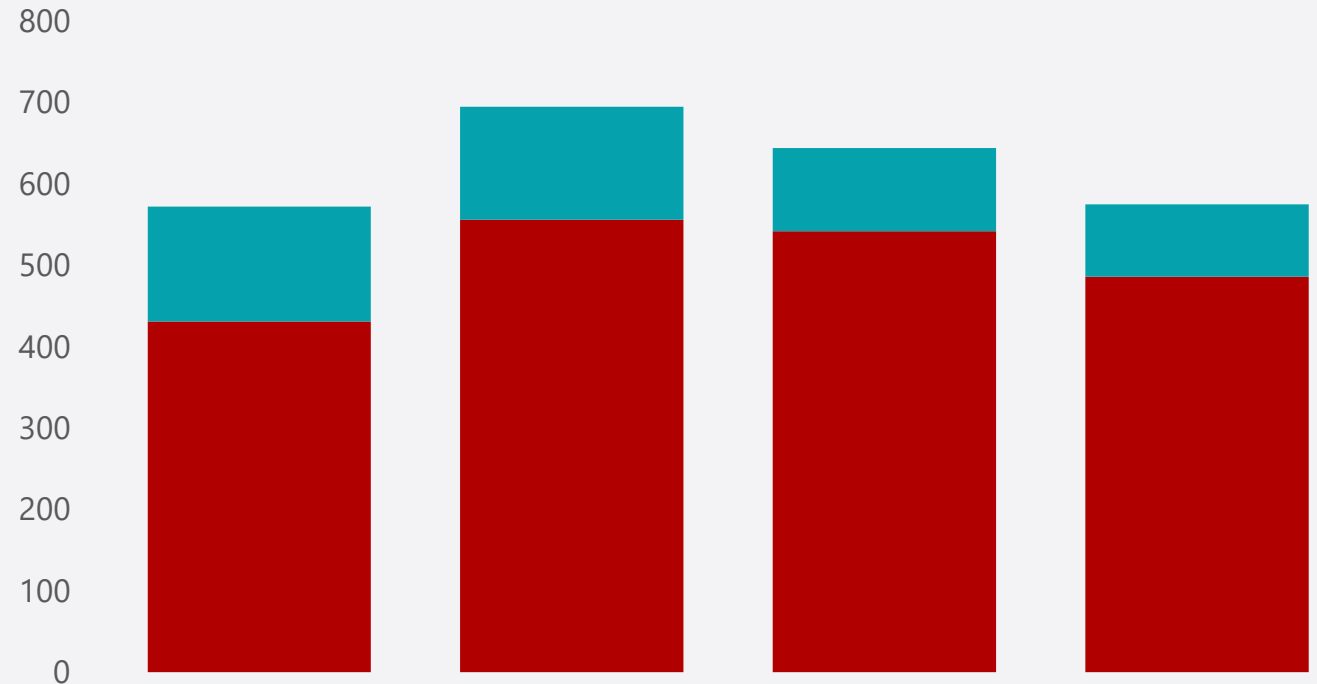
Combined fire service

136 years

Combined law enforcement service

TDI | Investigations by fiscal year

Initial completed fire investigations and canine external investigation assists



Type

■ Accelerant detection canine external investigation assists

■ Initial completed fire investigations

FY20

FY21

FY22

FY23

141

139

102

89

431

556

542

486

TDI | Drone assistance

- SFMO deploys drones for scene documentation and other investigation and inspection assistance.
- FAA-107 pilot certified.
- Available for local response to assist the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

TDI | Firefighter fatality investigations

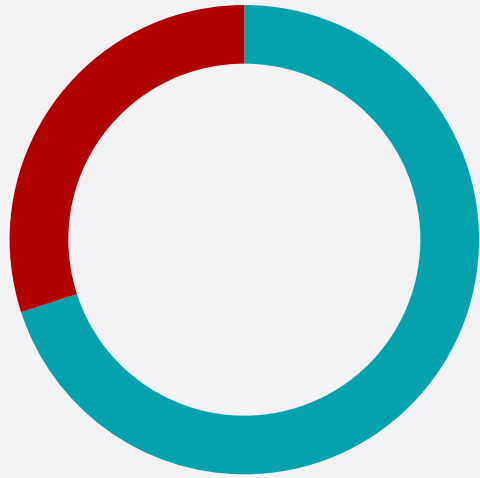
The state fire marshal investigates the circumstances surrounding a firefighter's death, including any factors that may have contributed to the firefighter's death if:



- A firefighter dies in the line of duty.
- A firefighter's death occurs in connection with an on-duty incident in Texas.

TDI | Firefighter fatality investigation report

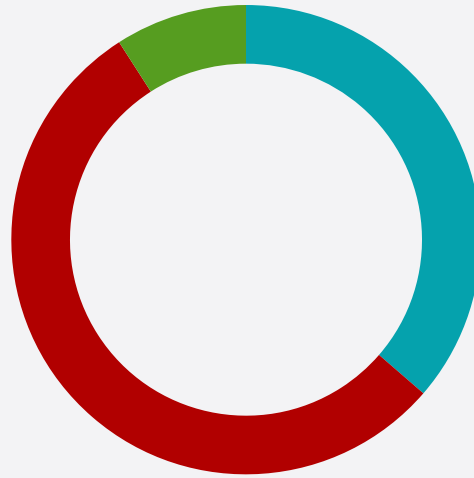
In [fiscal year 2023](#), SFMO investigated 10 firefighter fatality incidents that resulted in 11 deaths.




Investigations by FD type

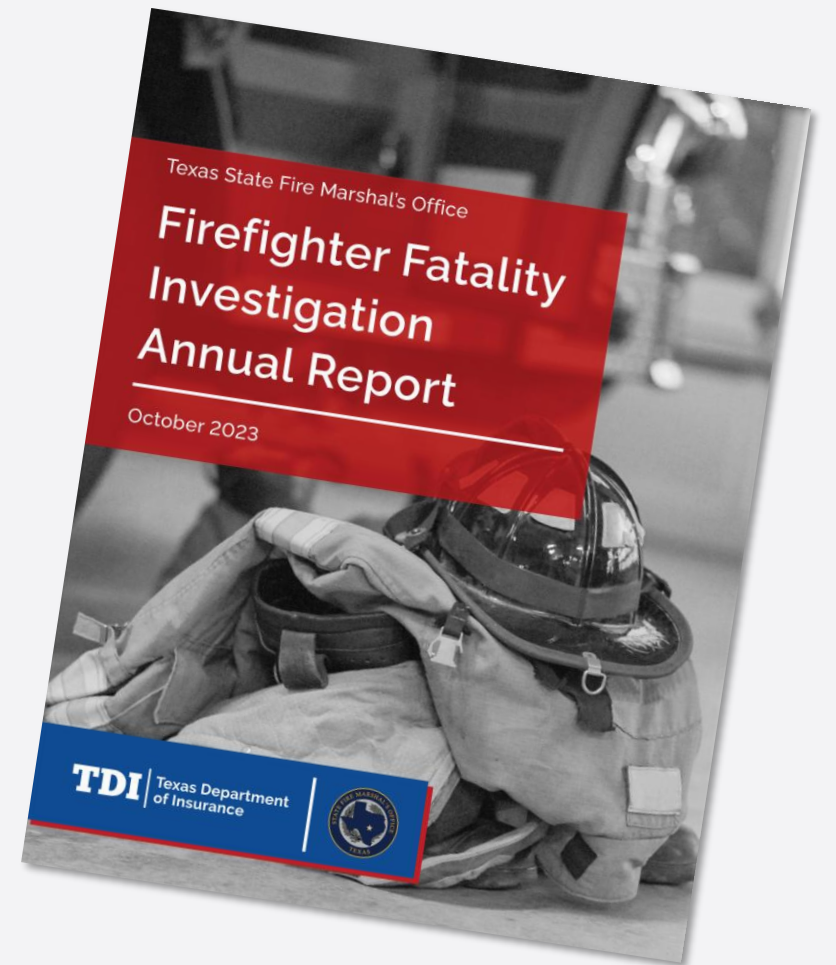


 Volunteer	70%
 Paid	30%

Types of investigations



 Motor vehicle	40%
 Medical	50%
 Other	10%



TDI | Industry licensing and investigations

- Regulates the planning, selling, installing, certifying, and servicing fire extinguisher, fire alarm, and fire sprinkler systems.
- Regulates the sale and display of fireworks.
- Register and licenses companies and individuals providing these services in Texas.
- Conducts fire alarm, extinguisher, and sprinkler systems investigations.
- Inspects fireworks stands to ensure compliance with adopted safety standards.

TDI | Licensing investigators

- Average 1,100 investigations per year.
- One lieutenant.
- One sergeant.
- Four investigators.

22 years

Combined state service

54 years

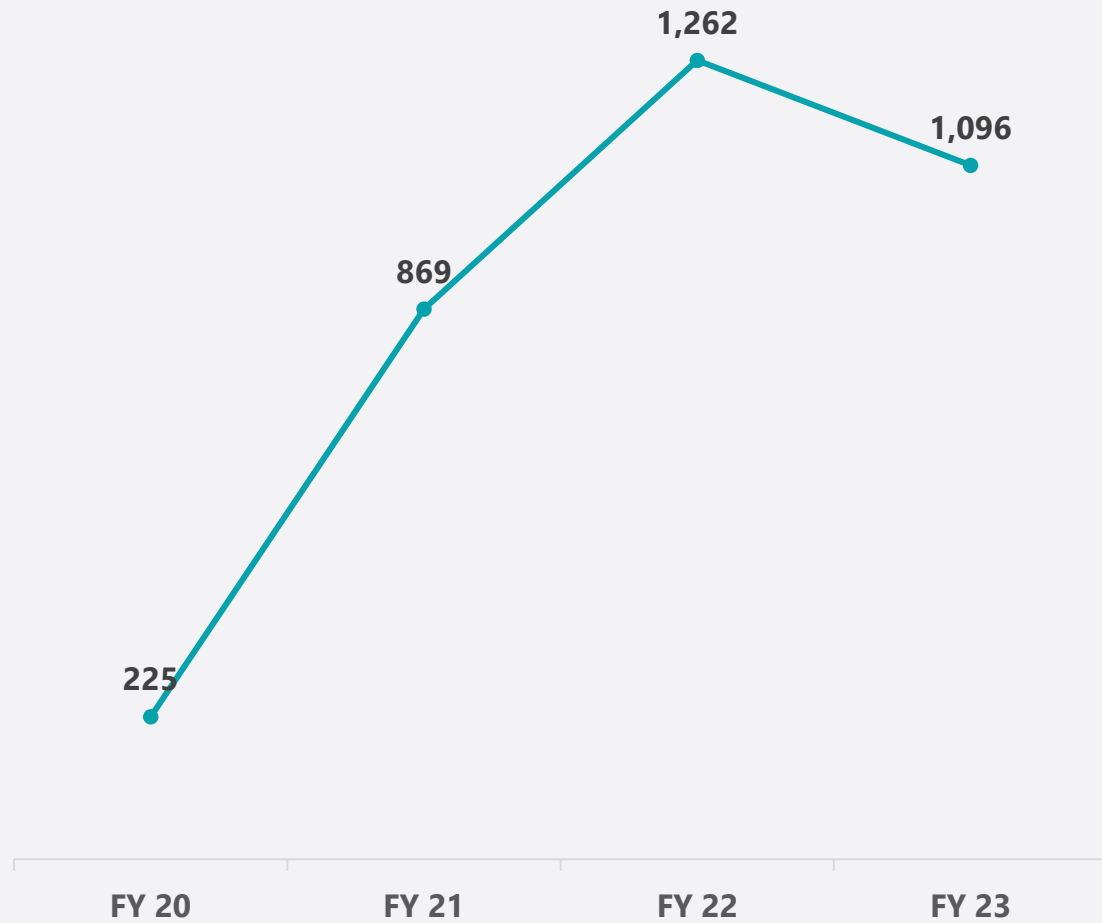
Combined fire service

57 years

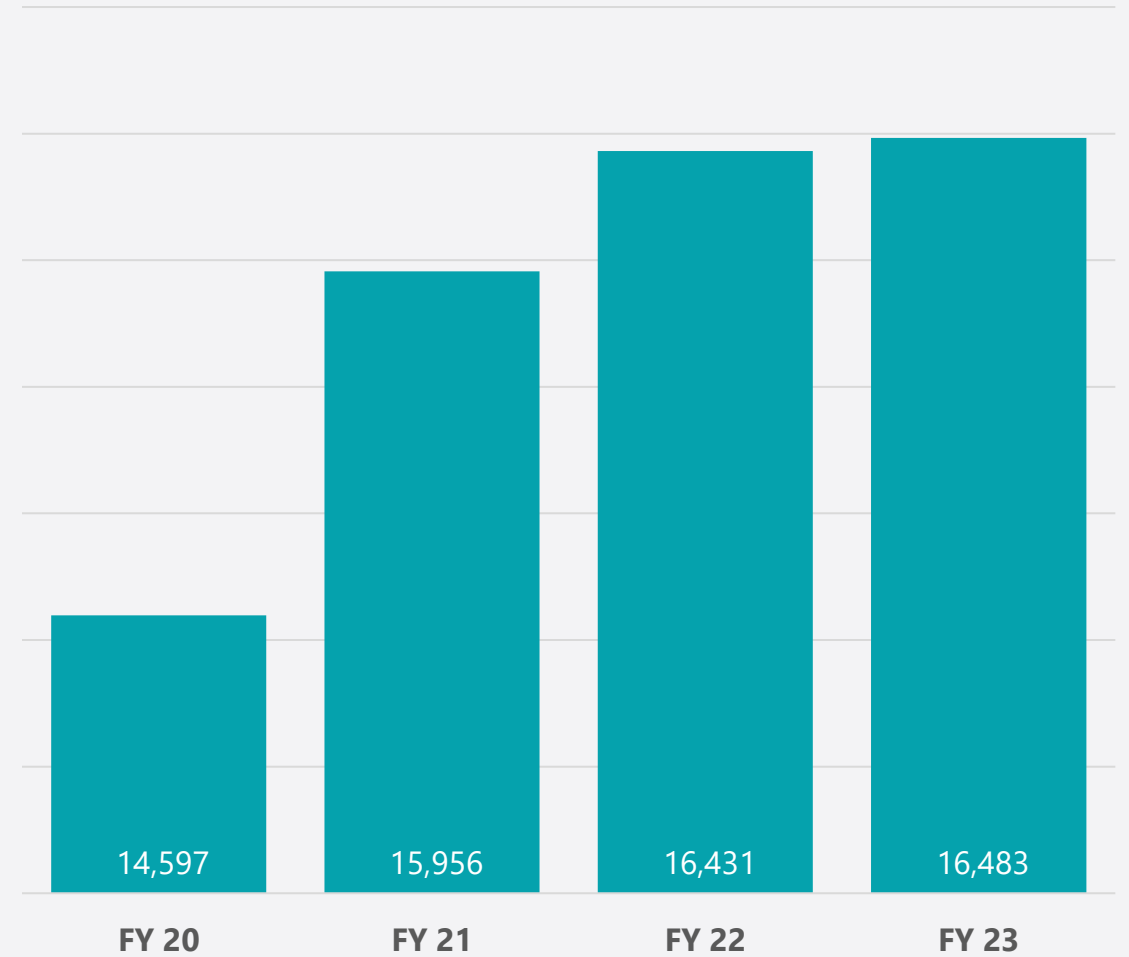
Combined law enforcement service

TDI | Licensing activities

Fire protection and fireworks industry licensing investigations and inspections



Licenses, registrations, and permits issued



TDI | Fire Safety Inspection Services

- Conducts fire safety inspections of public and private buildings including:
 - State owned and leased buildings.
 - Daycare, elder-care centers, and foster homes.
 - Hospitals.
 - Hotels and motels.
 - University and college buildings.
 - Other buildings upon request or complaint.
- Offers adopted code interpretation and consulting services to city and county fire protection agencies, private individuals, state agencies, and business owners.
- Researches, reports, and makes improvement recommendations to counties about fire prevention and protection.

TDI | Fire safety inspectors

- Average 7,000 inspections and over 75M square feet per year.
- One lieutenant.
- Two sergeant.
- 12 investigators.
- One Capitol fire marshal.

71 years

Combined state service

230 years

Combined fire service

51 years

Combined law enforcement service

TDI | State building inspections report

SFMO must:

- Periodically inspect public buildings owned or leased by a state agency.
- Assign a safety risk to each building.
- Publish a report each year on the inspection findings.

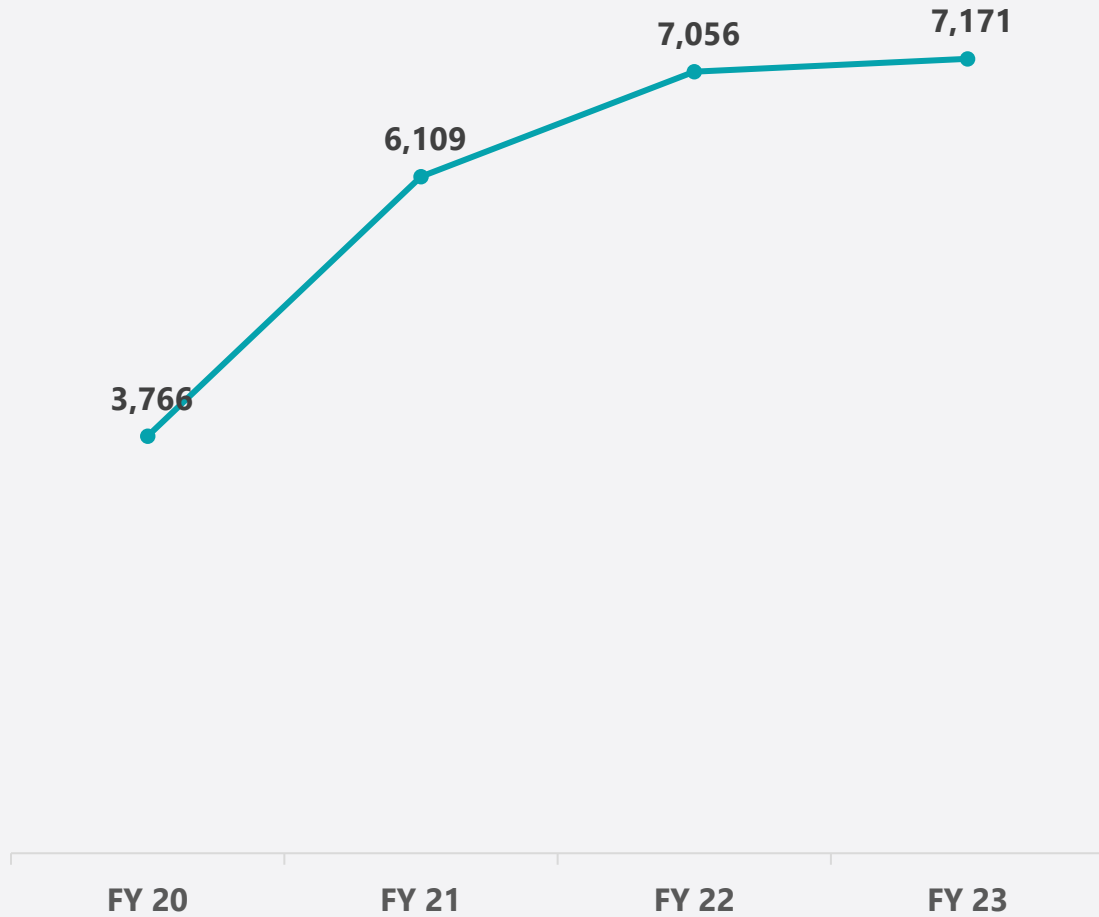
In fiscal year 2023, SFMO conducted 7,171 inspections.

- 97.4 M square feet.
- 14,090 violations identified.
- 11,575 violations corrected.
- Six university campus inspections.

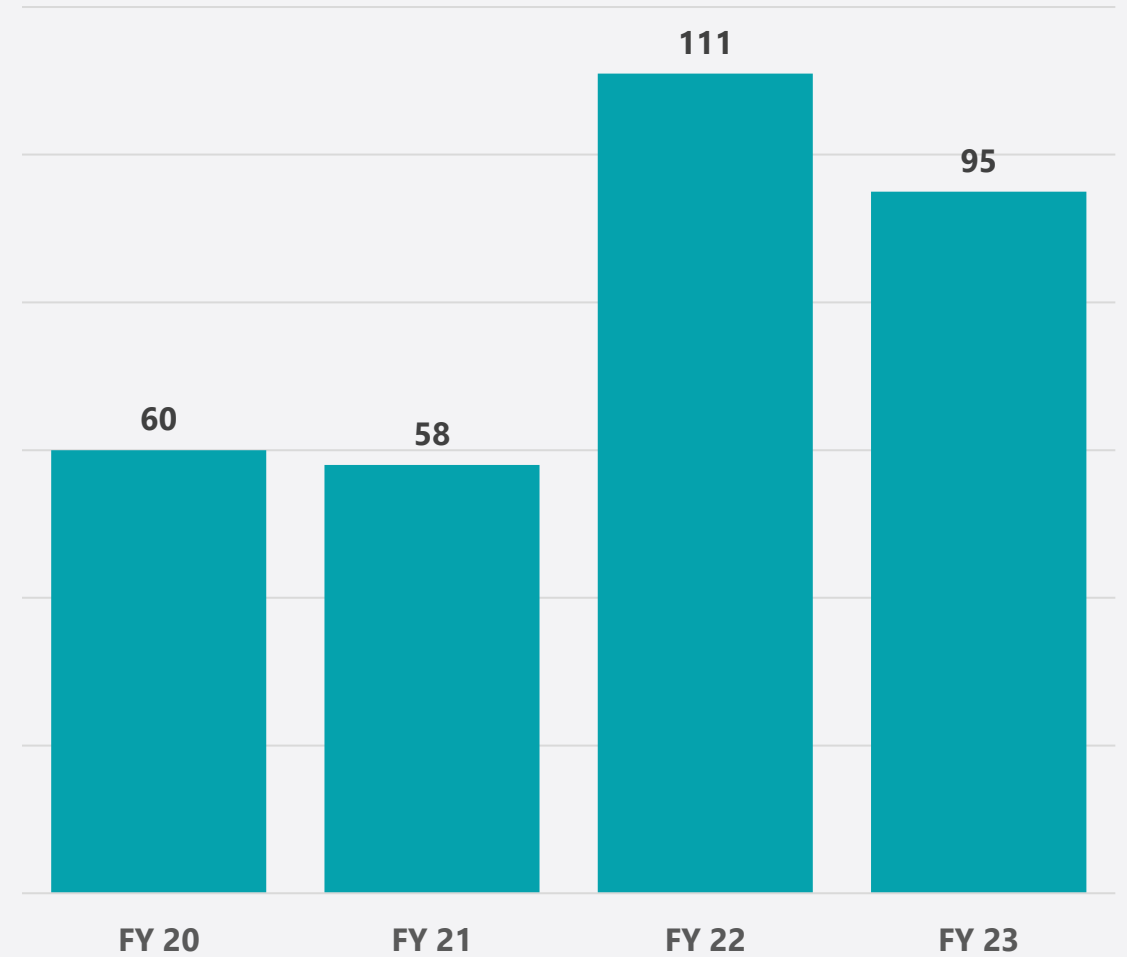


TDI | Inspection activities

Buildings inspected or reinspected



Millions of square feet inspected



TDI | Outreach, Policy, and Research

- Creates and promotes fire safety resources.
- Coordinates SFMO communication.
- Responsible for all publicly disseminated documents, including forms, reports, and presentations.
- Maintains internal SFMO procedures.
- Processes open records.
- Fire safe cigarette certification.

TDI | Fire marshal discussion series

- Presentations by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, Texas Commission on Fire Protection, and others.
- Dates and locations are listed on the [SFMO calendar](#).

TDI | TEXFIRS program

- Collects and maintains incident data from fire departments.
- State-level representatives for the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).
- Ensure data quality.
- Provide training.
- Upload incident reports to the NFIRS database.

951

Fire departments reporting

1.8 M

Incident files processed by
TEXFIRS in 2022

2.3 M

Incidents sent to NFIRS in 2022

TDI | Public Protection Oversight

- Texas is the only state with oversight over the Insurance Services Office (ISO).
- The public fire protection of a city, town, or area is graded using ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule to develop the community's classification.
- This grade is then used by subscribed insurance providers for underwriting insurance premiums.
- ISO submits gradings with TDI for review and final approval.
- ISO cannot publish the grading to their database without approval from TDI.
- Oversees public protection classification surveys statewide.
- Reviews each classification rating submittal.
- Mediates appeals.
- Approves/denies ISO recommended PPCs.

TDI | Public Protection Classification

Proposed rating approval

- Consistent with the applicable fire suppression and mitigation grading schedule.
- Deemed approved 30 days after the date it is filed unless:
 - SFMO provides notice of proposed denial.
 - Filer agrees to extend the period.

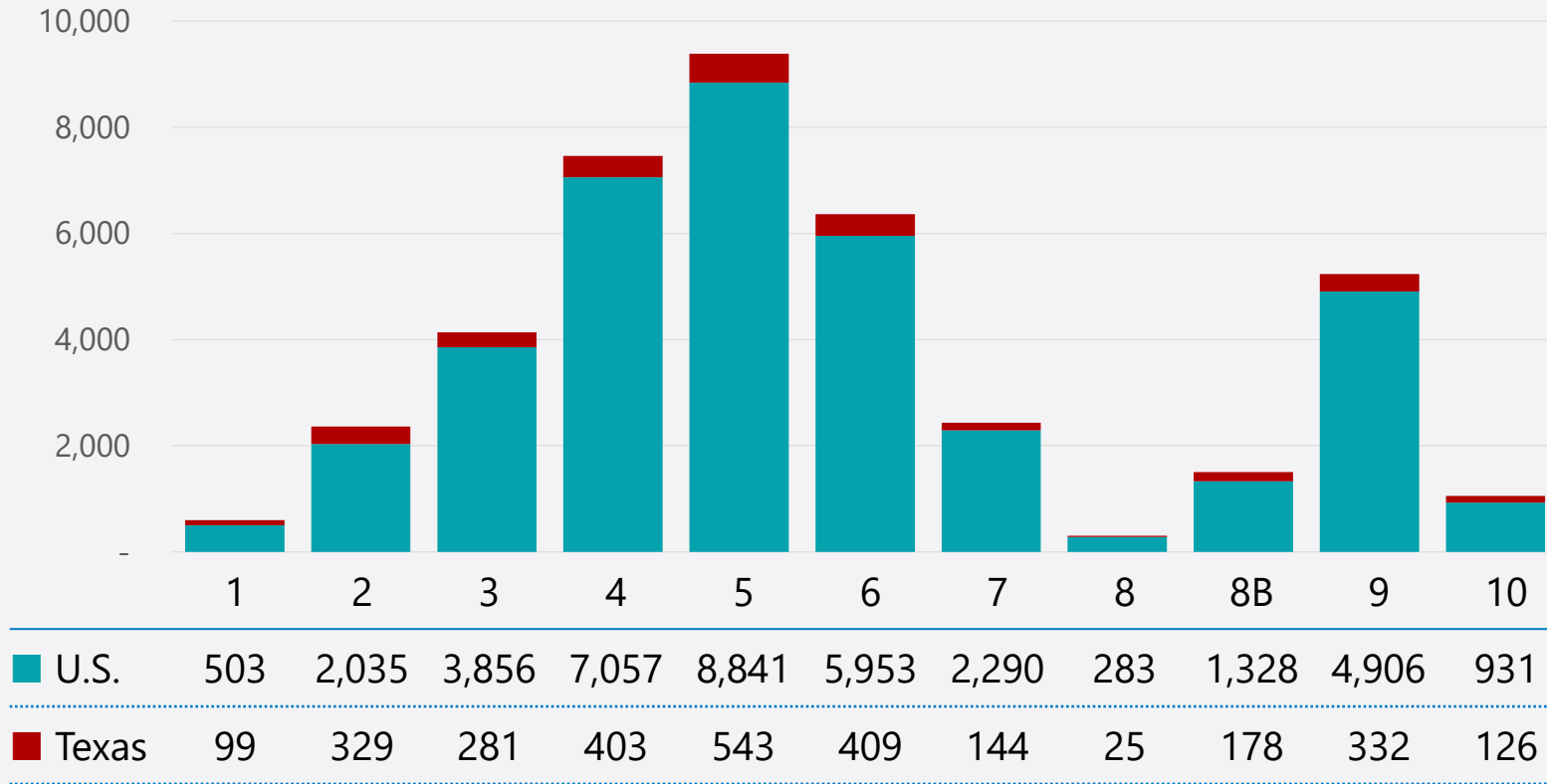
Proposed rating disapproval

- Not consistent with the applicable fire suppression and mitigation grading schedule.
- Not compliant with applicable state laws and regulations.

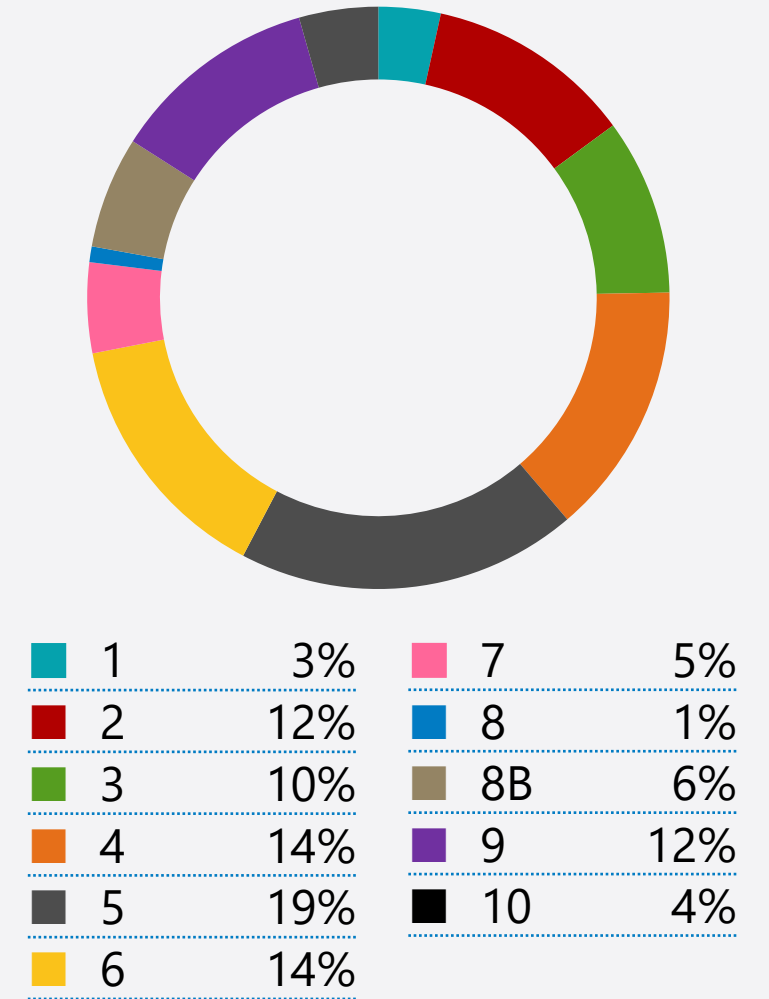
TDI | PPC gradings

- There are 503 Class 1 gradings in the U.S.
- Texas has the most Class 1 gradings.

U.S. and Texas class gradings



Texas class gradings



TDI | Future projects

- Lithium ion.
- Battery fire investigations.
- E-stops for battery charging stations.
- Community risk reduction program.