

**Contact Information** 

**Mailing Address:** 

TDHCA PO Box 13941 Austin, TX 78711-3941 **Physical Address:** 

TDHCA 221 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, TX 78701

Website: https://www.tdhca.texas.gov

**Division Phone Number:** (512) 475-3800 or (800) 525-0657 (toll free in Texas only)

2

#### **Announcements**

#### Schedule:

- The training will run from 9:00 am until approximately 11:30 am
- We will take a break mid-morning to shift from the webinar to the open forum
- Staff will be present to answer any questions

#### Housekeeping:

- Certificates <u>will not</u> be emailed but you will receive an email confirming your attendance, usually within 24-hours in an email from the GoTo Platform, please check your "junk" folders as we cannot reissue these emails
  - If you did not use your emailed link for the training from your registration you will not receive a follow-up email or show as having attended the webinar
- We suggest you silence your phones and put an "out of office" email response to help avoid distractions during the training
- Please pose questions and comments to the "Questions Box"

#### 2

## **Department Resources**

- Compliance
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance
- Physical Inspections
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/physical-inspections
- Construction Inspections and Accessibility
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/construction-inspections-and-accessibility
- Disaster Relief/Casualty Loss
  - · https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-general-casualty-loss-information-htc-properties-during-compliance-period
- Training and Presentations
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-program-training-presentations
- Contact List
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-division-staff



## **DISCLAIMER!**



NSPIRE is an evolving topic with additional HUD guidance anticipated

HUD will publish through Federal Register updates to the NSPIRE standards and scoring at least once every three years

NSPIRE is subject to change with HUD guidance

Not legal guidance

5

### What is NSPIRE?





- NSPIRE is the new inspection protocol that replaces old inspection standards formerly known as the Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) Standard.
- · Changed Mantra: Functionally adequate, operable, and free of health and safety hazards.
- 63 NSPIRE Inspection Standards.
- Complete transformation from UPCS with a focus on resident health and safety and less on appearance.
- Scoring Algorithm has been revamped to place a much higher priority on units. Thus, deficiencies categorized as Life-Threatening and Severe within a unit will have a greater impact on the score.



The 63 NSPIRE Standards Address & signage 23. Flammable & combustible 45. Refrigerator Bathtub & shower item 46. Retaining wall 24. Floor Cabinet & storage 47. Roof assembly Call-for-aid system 25. Food preparation area Carbon Monoxide alarm 26. Foundation 48. Sharp edges Ceiling 27. Garage door 49. Sidewalk, walkway, & ramp Chimney Grab bar 28. 50. Sink Clothes dryer exhaust ventilation 29. Guardrail 51. Site drainage Handrail 52. Smoke alarm Cooking appliance Heating, ventilation, and air 10. Door- entry11. Door- fire labeled 53. Sprinkler assembly conditioning (HVAC) Infestation 54. Steps & stairs Door- general 33. Leak- gas or oil 55. Structural system 13. Drain Leak- sewage system 56. Toilet 14. Egress 35. Leak- water 57. Trash chute 15. Electrical- conductor, outlet, 36. Lighting- auxiliary 37. Lighting- exterior 58. Trip hazard 16. Electrical- GFCI or AFCI Lighting- interior
 Litter 59. Ventilation outlet or breaker 60. Wall- exterior 17. Electrical- service panel 40. Minimum electrical & lightin 61. Wall- interior 41. Mold-like substance 18. Elevator 62. Water heater Exit sign Parking lot 20. Fence & gate Potential leag-based paint 63. Window 21. Fire escape hazard- visual assessment 22. Fire extinguisher 44. Private roads & driveways

# **TDHCA Scoring Scale**

- TDHCA will retain a 0-100, score for multifamily properties inspected using NSPIRE.
- Developments scoring a 70 or below or deemed to be in poor physical condition will be subject to an accelerate inspection schedule until the score improves.
- The Responsible Party may be referred to enforcement for possible debarment if on more than one occasion scored 50 or less on a NSPIRE inspection.



9

9

# NSPIRE Inspections conducted by TDHCA and HUD.

## **Differences and Similarities**

(only for developments that have both TDHCA and HUD funding)



10

# TDHCA and HUD's Physical Inspection Alignment Program

- TDHCA has adopted NSPIRE standards only (not HUD REAC Protocols)
- TDHCA does not participate in HUD's alignment program
- HUD/REAC inspections do not verify TDHCA committed Unit and Common Area amenities as required by the developments' LURA
- HUD REAC inspections do not conduct the minimal accessibility inspections required by TDHCA

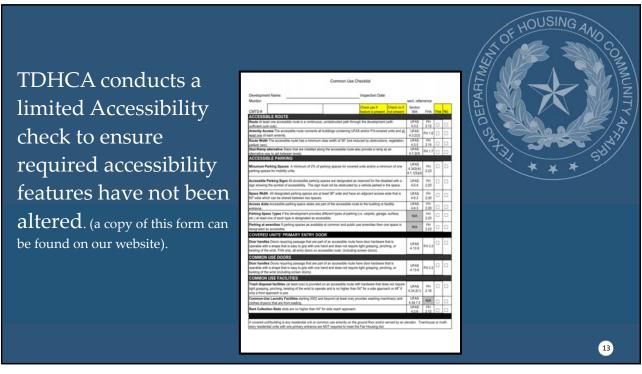


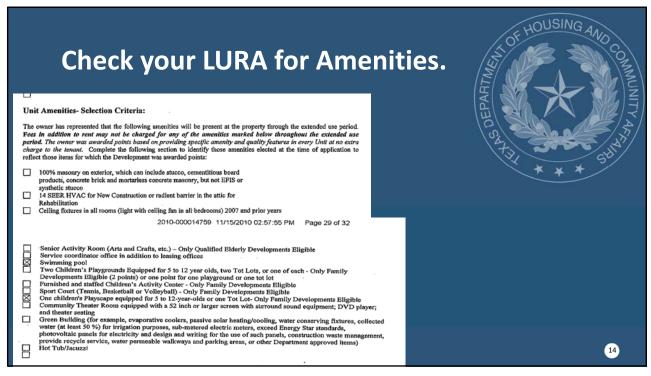


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## **Inspectable Areas - Unit**



#### **AFFIRMATIVE HABITABILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1. Hot and cold running water in both bathroom and kitchen, including adequate source of safe drinking water in the bathroom and kitchen
- Bathroom or sanitary facility that is in proper operating condition and usable in privacy that contains a sink, a bathtub or shower, and flushable toilet.
- 3. At least 1 battery-operated or hard-wired smoke detector
  - On each level of the unit
  - Inside each bedroom
  - Within 21' of any door to a bedroom measured along a path of travel; and
  - Where a smoke detector installed outside a bedroom is separated from an adjacent living area by a door, also installed on the living area of the side of the door.

17

### **Inspectable Areas - Unit**



#### **AFFIRMATIVE HABITABILIYT REQUIREMENTS:**

- 4. Living room and a kitchen area with a sink, cooking appliance, refrigerator, food prep area, and food storage area
- 5. For HCV/PBV, at least 1 bedroom or living / sleeping room for each 2 ppl
- 6. Meet carbon monoxide detection standards
- 7. Two working outlets or one working outlet and a permanent light within all habitable rooms
- 8. Outlets within 6' of a water source must be GFCI protected

## **Inspectable Areas - Unit**



#### **AFFIRMATIVE HABITABILIYT REQUIREMENTS:**

- 9. For climate zones designated by HUD through notice, must contain permanently installed heating source. Units may not contain unvented space heaters that burn gas, oil, or kerosene.
- 10. Must have a guardrail when there is an elevated walking surface drop off of 30" or more measured vertically
- 11. Permanently mounted light fixture in the kitchen and each bathroom

19

### **Inspectable Areas - Inside**



The common areas and building systems within the building interior that are not inside a unit

For instance, basements, interior or attached garages, enclosed carports, restrooms, closets, utility rooms, mechanical rooms, community rooms, day care rooms, halls, corridors, stairs, shared kitchens, laundry rooms, offices, enclosed porches/patios/balconies, and trash collection areas. Systems include water, electricity, elevators, emergency power, fire protection, HVAC, and sanitary services

## **Inspectable Areas - Inside**



#### **AFFIRMATIVE HABITABILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1. At least 1 battery-operated or hard wired smoke detector on each level
- 2. Meet carbon monoxide detection standards
- 3. Outlets within 6' of a water source must be GFCI protected
- 4. Must have a guardrail when there is an elevated walking surface drop off of 30" or more measured vertically
- Permanently mounted light fixtures in any kitchens and each bathroom
- 6. May not contain unvented space heaters that burn gas, oil, or kerosene

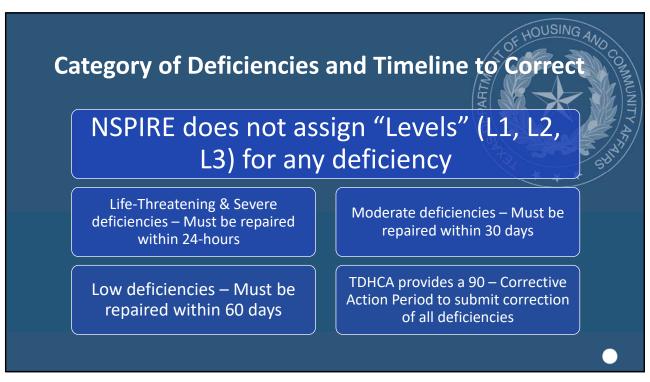
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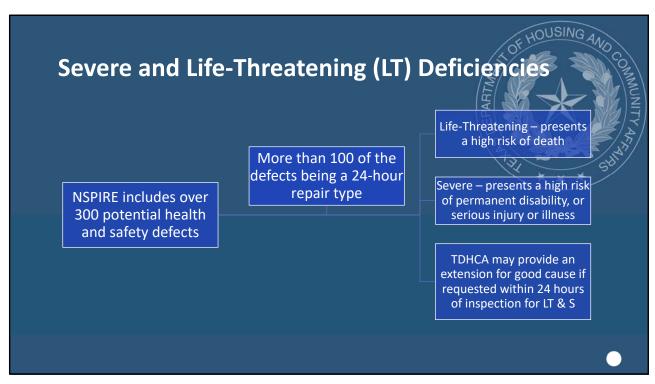
## **Inspectable Areas - Outside**



Building site, building exterior components, and any building systems located outside of the building or unit

For instance, fencing, retaining walls, grounds, lighting, mailboxes, project signs, parking lots, detached garages or carports, driveways, playgrounds, refuse disposal, roads, storm drainage, non-dwelling buildings, and walkways. Components include attached porches/patios/balconies, carports, fire escapes, foundations, lighting, roofs, walls, and windows





# Common Severe and Life-Threatening Deficiencies

- Inoperable smoke detectors
- Missing/damaged/expired extinguisher
- Exposed wires/open panels
- An unprotected outlet is present within six feet of a water source
- Infestation (roaches)
- AFCI outlet or AFCI breaker is not visibly damaged and the test or reset button is inoperable.

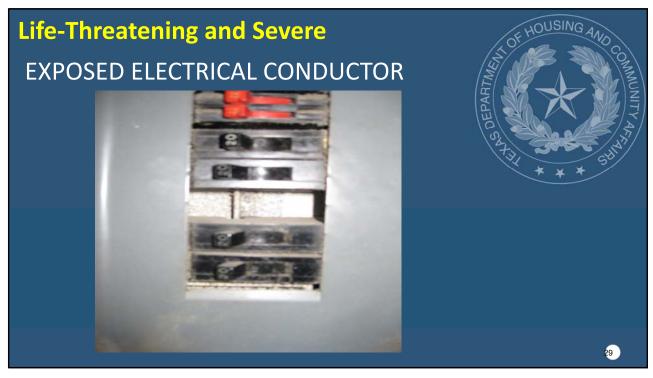


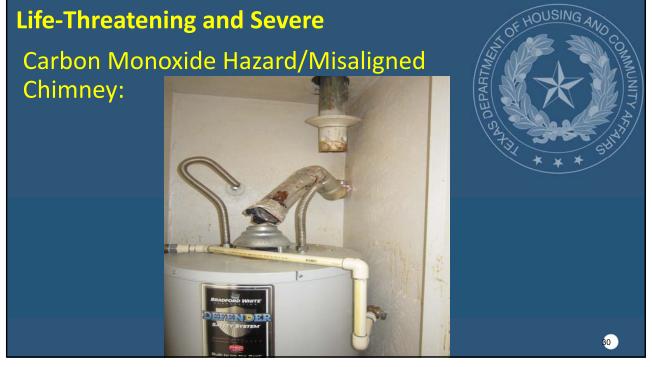
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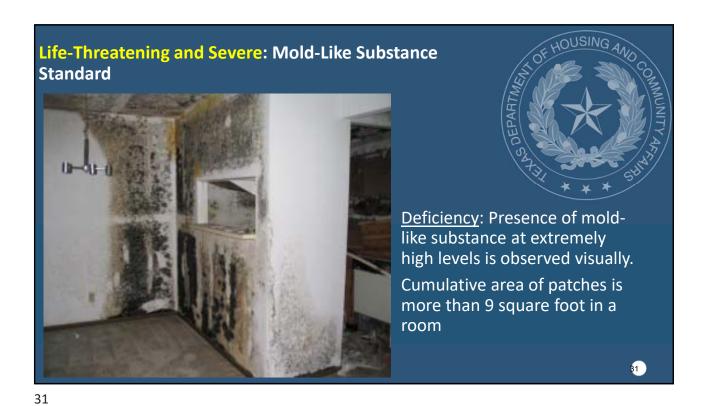


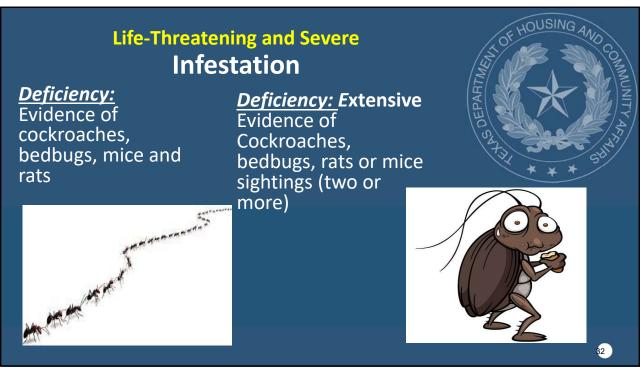












## **Non-Scoring Deficiencies**

- The following defects are not scored but must be corrected/remediated within 24 hours
- All Smoke Alarm Defects.
- All Carbon Monoxide Device Defects.
- Call-for-Aid: "System is blocked" or "Pull cord is higher than 6 inches off the floor."
- Handrail Defects: "Handrail is missing" or "Handrail is not installed where required."



33

## **Delayed Scoring Deficiencies**

- The following defects must be corrected/remediated in the appropriate timeframe but will not be scored will not be scored until at least October 1, 2025:
- All Fire Labeled Door Defects.
- All Guardrail Defects.
- **Electrical GFCI**: An unprotected outlet is present within six feet of a water source.
- HVAC: The inspection date is on or between October 1 and March 31 and the permanently installed heating source is working and the interior temperature is 64 to 67.9 degrees Fahrenheit.

## **Delayed Scoring Deficiencies Continued...**

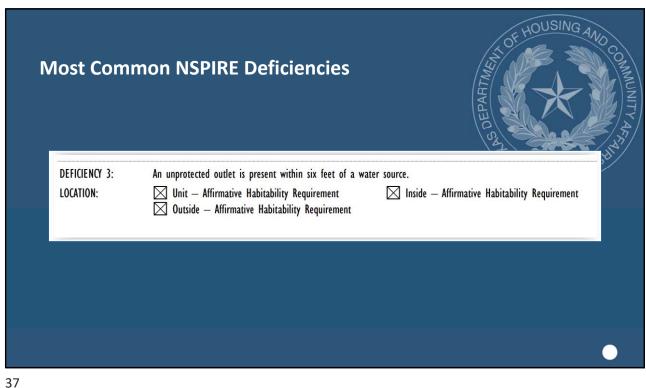
- HVAC: The inspection date is on or between October 1 and March 31 and the
  permanently installed heating source is not working or the permanently
  installed heating source is working and the interior temperature is below 64
  degrees Fahrenheit.
- HVAC: The inspection date is on or between April 1 and September 30 and a permanently installed heating source is damaged, inoperable, missing, or not installed.
- Interior Lighting: At least one (1) permanently installed light fixture is not present in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Minimum Electrical and Lighting: At least two (2) working outlets are not present within each habitable room OR" at least one (1) working outlet and one (1) permanently installed light fixture is not present within each habitable room.

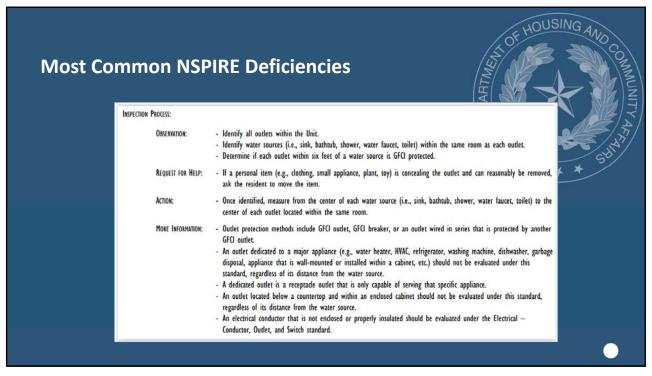
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#### **Most Common NSPIRE Deficiencies**

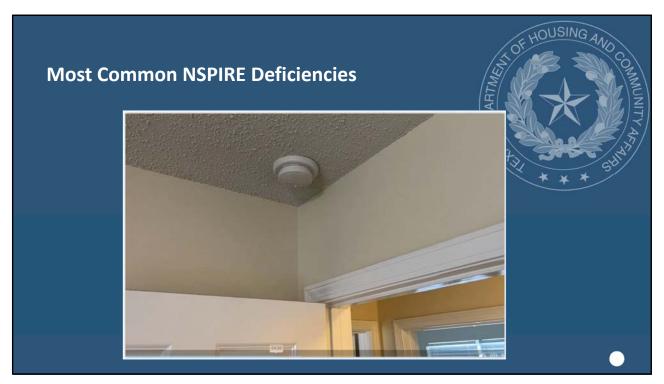


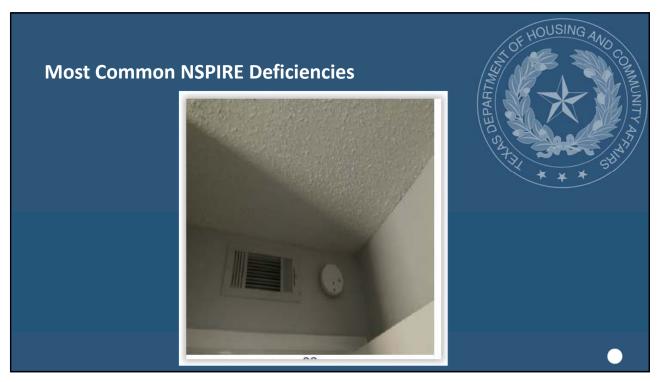


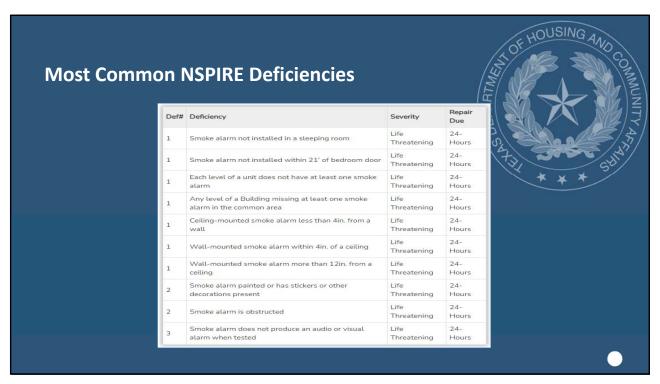


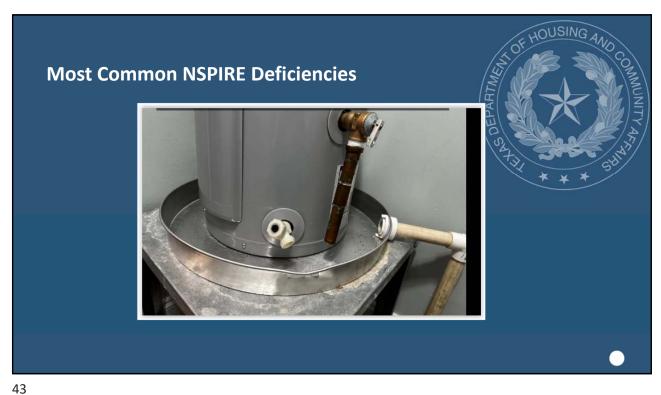


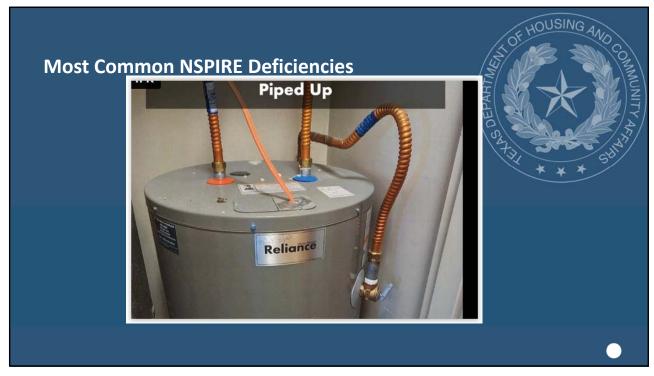


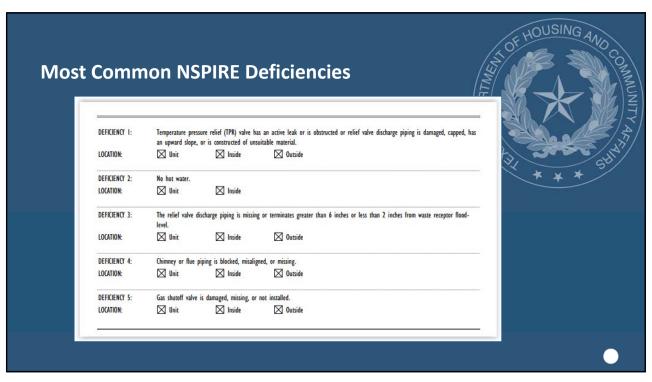


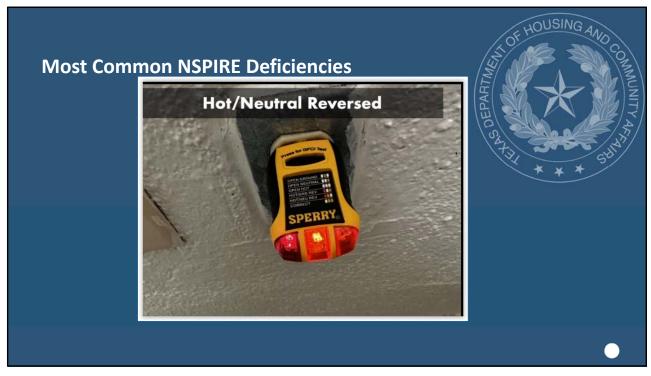


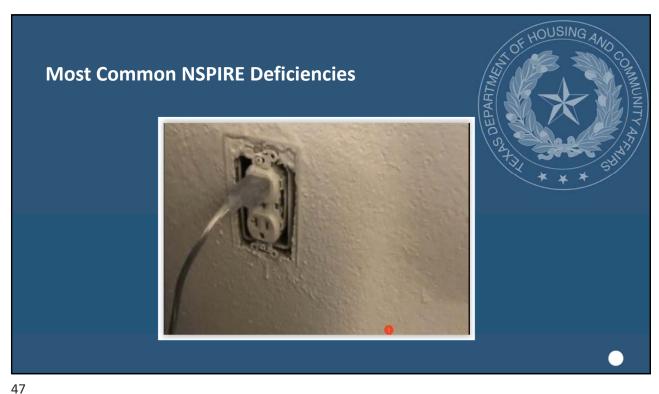


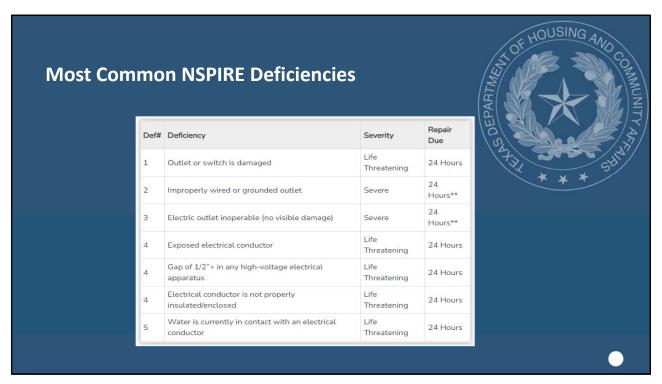


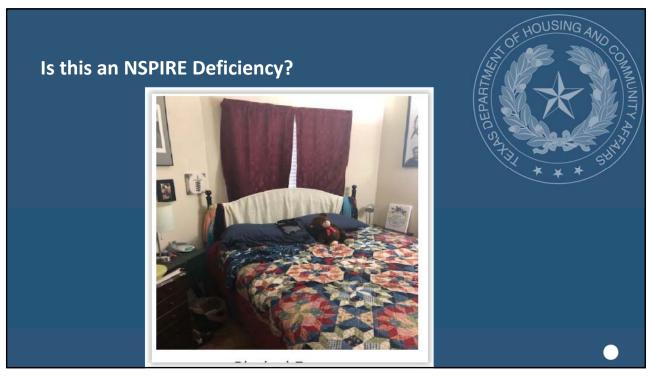


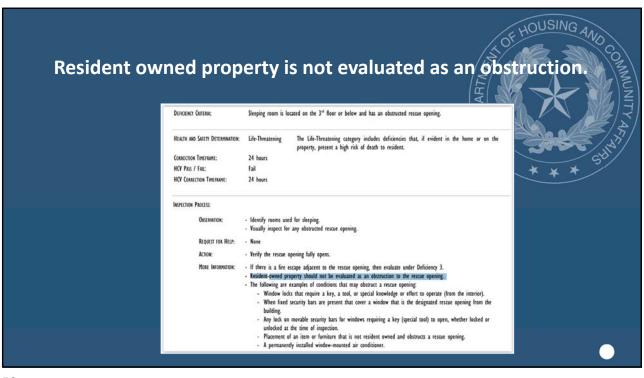




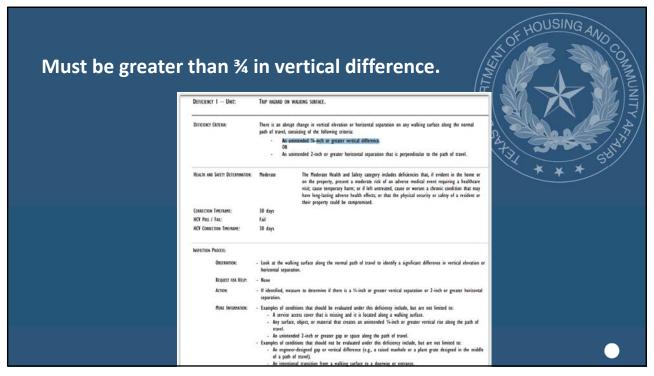










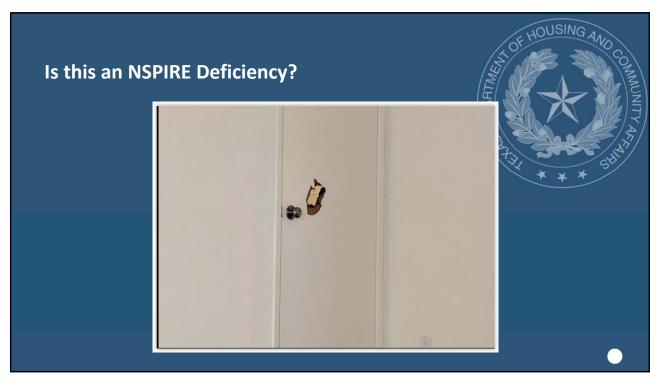




Passage Door, not an Entry or Fire-Labeled door.



- As bad as this looks, No Deficiency.
- A passage door is a door between rooms, door into a walk-in closet, or door into a utility room, storage room, or room that contains washers and dryers.
- Door must open, close, latch (operates as intended) and privacy is not compromised.







## **Additional Training Opportunities**

- The Department has a section devoted to previously recorded webinars.
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-program-training-presentations
- Every other month the Department offers an in-person Income Determination Training, registration opens a couple weeks before the class and can be found online
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-training
- The Department offers regular virtual training in conjunction with the Texas Apartment Association
  - https://www.taa.org/event-category/affordable-housing/
- The Multifamily Compliance division offers a monthly Office Hours, which is an open forum to ask questions of staff and get real-time answers
  - All of these will be posted online: https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/calendar
- You can also sign up for emailed announcements
  - Click the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/

58

