

## Welcome

We hope this newsletter will be an important resource for all our licensees. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the State of Tennessee or the Board of Land Surveying Examiners.

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## Contact Us

Board of Land Surveying  
Examiners

500 James Robertson Pkwy  
Nashville, TN 37243-1138

615-741-3611

## Board Meetings

April 17th, 2015

July 30 & 31st, 2015

October 30th, 2015

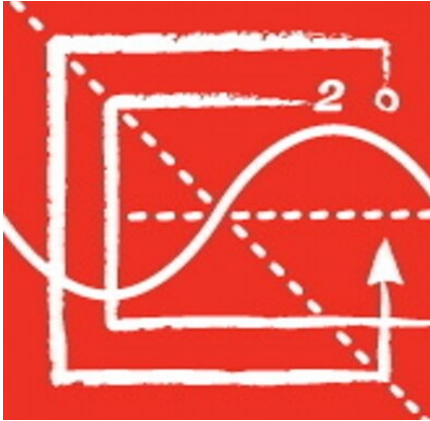


## Rule Changes 2015

It's a new year, a time when we often think of changes. As of February 15, several important rules and revisions will be going into effect for Tennessee land surveyors. There are new Rules of Conduct (Chapter 0820-4) and new rules governing Continuing Education (Chapter 0820-5). Let's take a look at how some of these new rules may effect you:

### *Continuing Education Is Now Biennial*

Perhaps the biggest change is the move to biennial education reporting. If you're rusty on your Latin, biennial means every two (2) years. In the past, surveyors were required to show fifteen (15) professional development hours (PDHs) per year. Now you'll simply have to show your total (30 PDHs) by the end of your two-year renewal period. This is a more flexible reporting schedule that allows you to take your courses at any point during the renewal cycle.



## NCEES Registration Ends February 19th!

If you've been approved by the Board to take the April 2015 PS exam, you must register with NCEES to reserve your copy of the test. Applicants have until **3PM EST on FEBRUARY 19TH** to register with NCEES. If you fail to register, no exam will be available to you! Visit [NCEES.org](http://NCEES.org) for info.

## Exam Dates

- April 17 & 18th, 2015: PS & TS. *Application deadline has passed!*
- October 2015: Deadline for applications (new and retakes) is JULY 15th.
- FS Exam Deadlines: March 15th, July 15th, September 15th 2015, and January 15th 2016.

Please contact our office if you have any questions about the approval process.

## Ethics & Standards of Practice Requirements

Now at least two (2) of your thirty (30) PDHs must come from a course or activity related to surveying ethics and/or standards of practice. This new requirement must demonstrate content in one of the following areas: awareness of ethical concerns and conflicts, enhanced familiarity with codes of conduct, understanding standards of practice or care, project management and risk-assessment management, or other topics designed to improve a licensee's professional knowledge and methods of practice.

## Age Exemption

Surveyors who are sixty-five (65) years or older and who have demonstrated at least twenty-five (25) years of active registration may be exempt from continuing education requirements, so long as they provide documentation to the Board. It should be noted that while it may no longer be necessary for these surveyors to demonstrate thirty (30) PDHs, they must still continue to obtain the two (2) PDHs related to surveying ethics and standards of practice.

## New Forms of Education Credit

PDHs can be awarded for participation in the following approved organizations and activities:

1 hour of professional development in coursework, seminars, webinars, or professional/technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or conferences.... 1 PDH

Teaching any of the above.... PDH x2

Each published peer-reviewed paper or book.... 10 PDH

Each published paper or article (besides above).... 5 PDH

Active participation as an officer or committee member in professional/technical societies.... 2 PDH

Each patent obtained.... 10 PDH

1 hour of outreach activities.... 1 PDH (not to exceed 3)



### *Professional Seal*

The seal and signature of the registrant, as well as the date of signing, should be placed on all land surveys, reports, plats, drawings, plans, and calculations whenever they're presented to any client or agency.

The size of the seal shall be two inches in diameter in all cases and on all documentation requiring the registrant's seal, regardless of the size of the document.

Working drawings and preliminary documents are not required to have a seal if the working drawing or document contains a statement in large bold letters to the effect "PRELIMINARY, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION, RECORD PURPOSES, OR IMPLEMENTATION."

For more information and a copy of all the new rules, visit our website: [www.tn.gov/regboards/surveyors](http://www.tn.gov/regboards/surveyors)



## IN MEMORIAM

The Board and its staff wish to extend our sympathies to the families and friends of these individuals who have honored their profession:

**Freddy Alley**  
**Bethel Smoot**  
**Ottis Freeland**

If you know someone who should be recognized please contact the Board office.

### **Congratulations to all candidates who passed the October 2014 exam:**

Joshua Aaron Meeks, Kenneth Joe Dedrick, Ronald Harrington Pate, Keith Ryan Brotherton, Bret Bee Ferguson, Edward Caldwell Burchett, James Masao Chambliss, Donovan P. Benson, Daniel James Collier Jr., Nicholas Lester Mansfield, Robert Matthew Goodrum, Timothy Brent Choate, Christopher Scott Kneram, Christian Peter Shurter, James Joseph Lewis Jr.





Tennessee's surveying teams can find themselves working in a variety of potentially hazardous job sites. Most are well instructed on the dangers of a distracted motorist or a hard hat area, but roughly half the state is rural. As spring returns and the world around us starts to come to life, a unique set of challenges come crawling our way. Our state is a natural wonder... home to some of the most varied topography in the nation and an ecosystem that's among the most biologically diverse on the planet. Within that incredible balance are a number of misunderstood creatures, feared and hated for the harm we think they'll cause us. But a surveyor out on a job may not always have a choice about accidentally confronting these critters. It's important to head out with the knowledge it takes to keep yourself and your crew safe.



**POISON IVY**  
(*Rhus toxicodendron* L.)



**POISON OAK**  
(*Rhus diversiloba*)



**POISON SUMAC**  
(*Rhus toxicodendron vernix*)

It's important to wear long, loose fitting clothes for a number of reasons... not the least of which are briars, thorns, and "poison" plants that can set fire to your skin.



## SPIDERS & INSECTS

Tennessee only has two poisonous spiders but both are somewhat infamous: the black widow and the brown recluse. The recluse gets its name from the lengths it will go to find a dark, undisturbed home but black widows are often found in human proximity. The truth is both avoid us whenever possible and most bites occur when they've been poked, squished, or otherwise injured. Even then these are often "dry bites"... meaning they contain no venom. Venom is a precious resource to these spiders and essential for capturing prey, even in defense they conserve it whenever possible.

Bites are initially painless, you may not even realize it's happened. Hours could pass before you notice but eventually redness and soreness will reveal the site of the wound. There can be tissue damage, nausea, or allergic reaction so you may need to contact a health care provider once it's clear you've been envenomed.



In spring the world starts buzzing with all manner of insects. Bees, wasps, and hornets pose the most risk to humans. You should always inform your coworkers if you have any allergies before heading out into the field, and include an epinephrine injector in your first aid kit. Wasps are predators and play by slightly different rules, attracted to human food and garbage. Upon encountering an insect nest your first instinct may be to destroy it, but often that's much riskier than simple avoidance. Swarms occur when they release special chemicals to signal that they're under attack. Besides, a bee hive is an essential part of spring's pollination process.



## SNAKES

March is the beginning of a very busy season for snakes as they emerge from hibernation and begin to breed. Unlike most other times of the year they'll be traveling great distances and active during the daytime. By far the most common snakes you'll encounter are completely harmless—black racers, rat snakes, water snakes. But in all cases avoidance is the best policy. In fact in Tennessee it's illegal to harm, kill, remove, or possess our native snakes. Attempting to prod or move a snake in one direction or another will often only backfire as the snake perceives an attack. Best to let a snake move on its own terms even if it means taking a few extra minutes or an alternate route.



**Copperhead:** These are the most common venomous snakes, but also have the weakest venom and are most likely to dry bite. Found all over the state, in woods and suburban areas.



**Cottonmouth:** When threatened they gape, exposing their white mouth as a warning. Found in the wet areas of Western and Middle Tennessee.





**Timber Rattlesnake:** The biggest and baddest, but also fairly elusive. Habitat loss is pushing this snake towards threatened status.



**Western Pygmy Rattlesnake:** A threatened, rare species that lives along the Tennessee River.

Tennessee is home to over thirty species of snakes, but only four of them have venom harmful to us. Each year there are between seven and eight thousand venomous bites in the U.S., with a mortality rate around 1 in 500. Often these deaths are related to a particular chemical allergy or a preexisting medical condition. About half of all venomous snake bites are also “dry bites.”

Tennessee’s venomous snakes are all pit vipers, which means one of their distinguishing features is a heat-sensing notch or “pit” between the eye and nostril. Each has a triangular head, although some harmless snakes will mimic this feature. Most tellingly, all share a vertical slit eye  instead of the usual round  shape. From a distance: if the snake appears long and thin, chances are it’s harmless. All of our venomous snakes appear thick and heavy looking.

If you’re bit, it’s important to remain calm. You’ll want to seek medical attention but fortunately in most cases observation is all that’s required. Limit movement in the affected area and keep the bite below heart level. As tempting as it may be to reach for an aspirin or a bottle of whiskey, you shouldn’t do anything to increase blood flow. You don’t want to restrict it either, so avoid tourniquets and remove watches, jewelry, socks, anything that would keep the venom concentrated. Attempting to suck out the venom or cut out the wound are both very ill-advised, as is attempting to capture the snake. Just try to identify it as best you can.

Each of these snakes is far more interested in controlling our rodent populations than picking a fight with a human. Be mindful as you walk through wooded areas and underbrush, wear your boots, and remember you’re not the only one out there with an important job to do.

*Special thanks to the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency.*





Galyon Northcutt,  
Chair

Jay Caughman,  
Vice Chair

Sue Braly

Tim Lingerfelt

## Online Renewal Now Available!

Click [here](#) to renew online. You may only pay your renewal fee online; you still have to mail your continuing education in to the board office. Effective February 15, 2015, every licensee will be required to obtain thirty (30) PDHs per biennial renewal period. A minimum of two (2) PDHs shall be earned by successfully completing a course or activity that has content areas focused on surveying ethics and standards of practice.

You can now get online notification from the licensing board related to the following:

New or Amended Statutes – New or Updated Rules

Changes to Fees – Rulemaking Hearings related to Fees

Significant Changes Impacting Your License – Changes to Policies

To sign up, go to our website at [www.tn.gov/regboards/surveyors](http://www.tn.gov/regboards/surveyors)

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors was created to ensure that all of Tennessee's surveyors are qualified and hold the highest appropriate professional standards. We believe that this newsletter will serve an important function informing and educating our licensees, but in order to do that we need your help! We want your thoughts, your photos, your articles and suggestions. We want to make sure we're representing every experience level and every part of the state. Let us know what you want to see here. Reach our editor at [cody.kemmer@tn.gov](mailto:cody.kemmer@tn.gov).

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