



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: June 27, 2025
To: Media Outlets
From: Dan Hendrickson, Fire Marshal
Re: Residential Food Sales

We have received reports of numerous individuals that are selling prepared food out of their homes. The Fire Marshal's Office has been tasked with health inspections within the city limits since 2013. Since then, we have found several individuals selling food and plates via Facebook. These vendors are handled on a case-by-case basis, but citizens are reminded that selling prepared food or plates out of your house without a permit issued by the City of Big Spring is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$2,000.00, with each day selling considered as a separate offense.

As stated in the City of Big Spring Code of Ordinances Section 28-21 - Permits and Exemptions

- a) A person may not operate a food establishment without a permit issued by the city unless such person holds a valid food establishment permit from the state department of health services issued prior to the effective date of the ordinance from which this article is derived. Permits are not transferable from one person to another or from one location to another location, except as otherwise permitted by this article. A valid permit must be posted in or on every food establishment regulated by this article.

The Fire Marshal's office has observed Facebook posts where individuals post a photo of their "Food Handlers Certificate." That certificate is insufficient to obtain a permit; you must have a "Food Managers Certificate."

To legally obtain a permit you must go to the Permits Office located in the City Hall Annex at 217 East 3rd Street to fill out the application with payment and a copy of your Food Managers Certificate to keep on file. Pursuant to Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER), a permit will never be issued to a private residence because you cannot have a commercial kitchen attached to a residence where someone sleeps. Anyone with questions concerning selling food, please contact the Fire Marshal's office at 432-264-2302.