The Medical Marijuana Industry and its Engineering Effects

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Okla. State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

Timeline

- June 2018-passed by referendum (State Question 788)
  - OMMA established as part of Okla. State Dept. of Health
- November 2022-OMMA became an independent agency

By the Numbers

- One in ten Oklahomans carries a medical marijuana card
- Over 12,000 businesses have been started across the state
  - Up to 75% are owned by foreign entities

CBN article Jan 29, 2024 by Tara Mergener

What Kinds of Commercial Licenses are Involved?

- Grower
- Processor
- Dispensary
- Transporter
- Transporter Agent
- Testing Laboratory
- Waste Disposal Facility
- Research
- Education

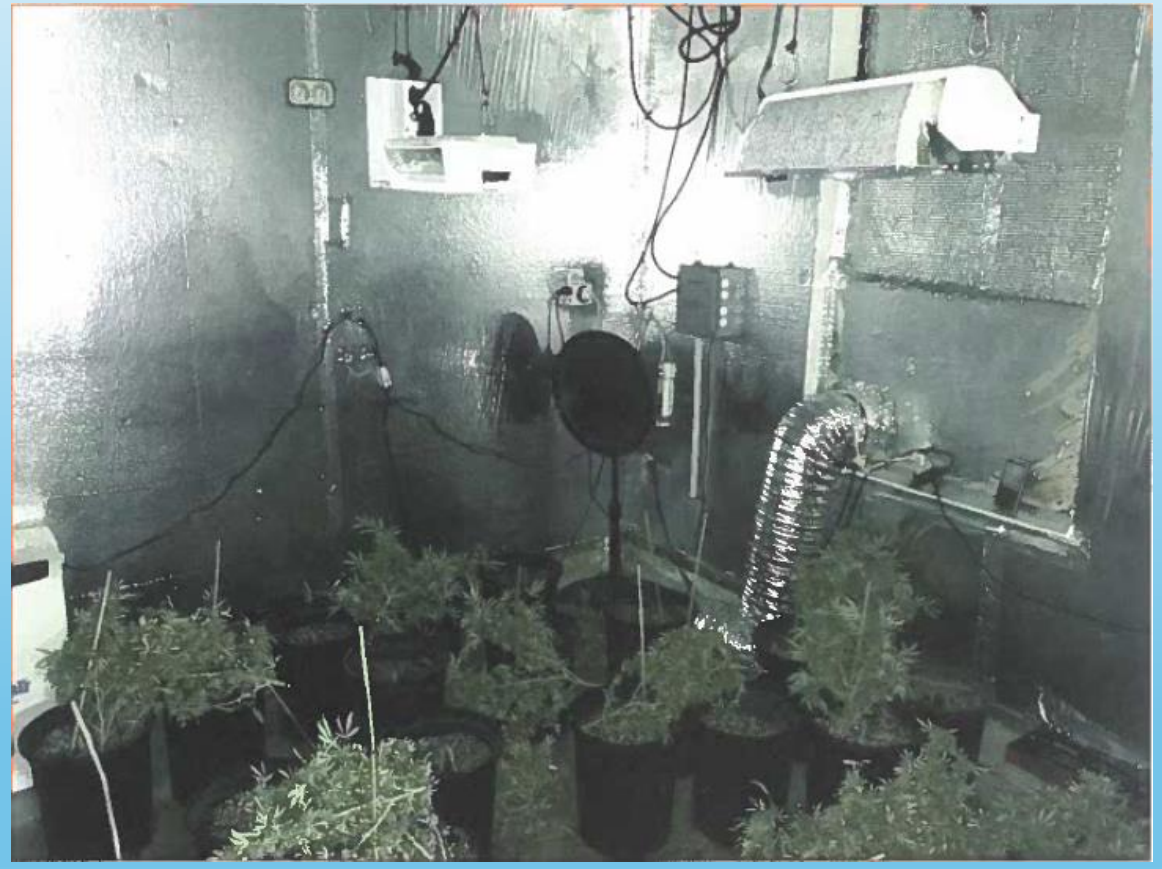
Why Should We Be Concerned?

Flash fire in extraction facility while pouring residual liquid in unvented room. Fire ignited by heat gun on counter.

Why Should We Be Concerned?

Charcoal air filter in an illegal grow operation

Why Should We Be Concerned?

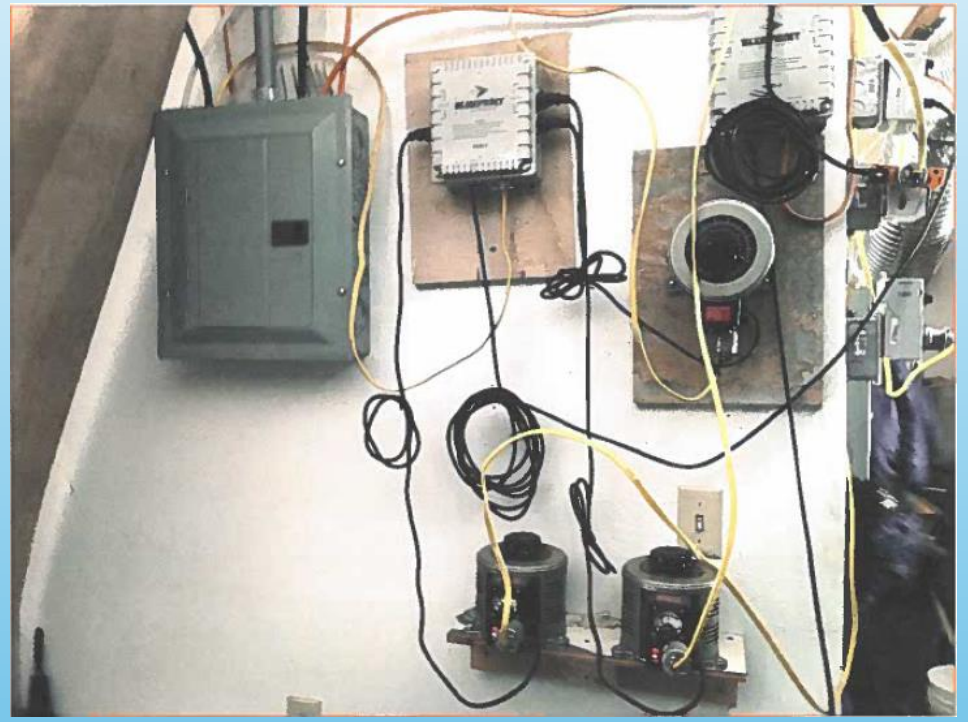


Illegal Facilities in single-family dwelling

Why Should We Be Concerned?

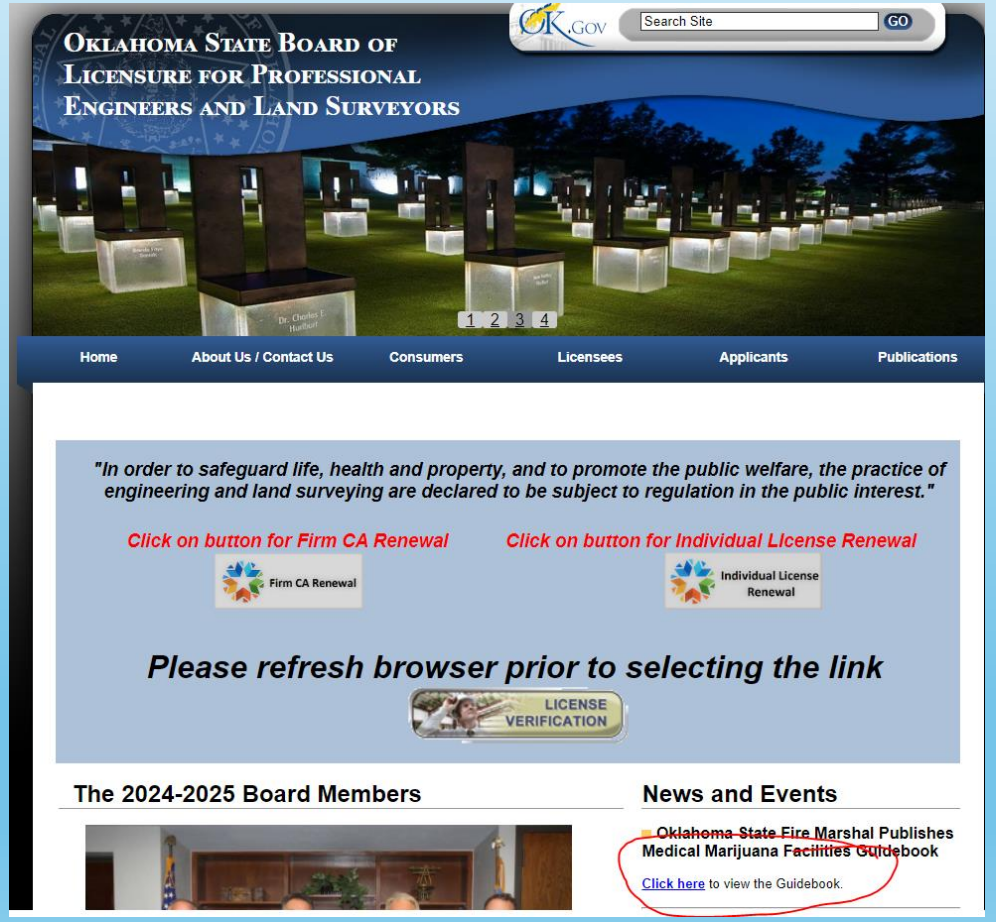
Illegal Extraction Operations Often Result in a Structural Fire

Why Should We Be Concerned?



Questionable Wiring in Illegal Grow Facility

Where to Find the Information



How did this come together?

- Okla. Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
- Okla. Board of Architects
- Okla. State Fire Marshal’s Office

Architectural Requirements

- See Building Types and Exempt Building Types in Oklahoma to determine whether an Oklahoma Licensed Architect is required.

Engineering Requirements-New Construction

- Regarding a “facility” classified as Group B, F-1, H-2, H-3 or U: the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as the structural engineering, are required to be designed by an Oklahoma Licensed Professional Engineer “Oklahoma P.E.” with designated competence in each specific discipline of engineering involved. The risk category per IBC 1604.5 shall be considered II, III or IV.

Engineering Requirements-Renovations

- Renovations Regarding a renovated structure classified as Group B, F-1, H-2, H-3 or U: the existing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, as well as the structural engineering, are required to be evaluated by an “Oklahoma P.E.” with designated competence in each specific discipline of engineering involved, to determine if the existing facility requires any revisions to the engineered systems or layout of the facility to be in compliance all applicable codes. Any alterations to the existing engineered systems shall be designed by an “Oklahoma P.E.” with designated competence in that discipline of engineering. The risk category per IBC 1604.5 shall be considered II, III or IV.

Examples of Classifications

Group B

- Testing laboratory

Group F-1

- Grow facility with processing/packaging
- Greenhouses for commercial cannabis production which contain mechanical/electrical/structural systems
- Extraction facility where hazardous materials DO NOT exceed the maximum allowable quantities
  - 1. Control areas may be utilized
- Bakery/edible manufacturing

Examples of Classifications

Group H-3 (in some instances H-2)

- Extraction facility where flammable liquids exceed the maximum allowable quantities

Group M

- Retail sales
- Grow supply stores

Group U

- Grow facility without processing/packaging
- Greenhouses for commercial cannabis production which do not contain mechanical/electrical/structural systems

Why Are We Worried about this now?

When law was enacted, not enough resources to fully inspect all facilities

- Was wanted to have quick turn around

Law has changed, as well as policy

- Need inspections for license renewal (facilities must be compliant with code)

More businesses reaching out for consultants and wanting plans reviewed/signed off on

Questions?