



City of Murphy  
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[www.murphytx.org](http://www.murphytx.org)

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Code changes for fences could affect spring repairs *Windy weather may signal repair job on the horizon*

MURPHY (March 8, 2013) The combination of strong, gusty straight-line winds that seem to target Murphy every spring along with the age and wear of privacy fences anchored with wooden posts may mean a fence repair job in the near future for some residents, according to David Gensler, Code Compliance Supervisor.

“It’s not unusual to have a number of complete fences or segments of fences toppled over during the spring windy days. We’ve seen it happen time and time again. A good strong wind will play havoc with a fence,” he said.

Should that happen, residents ought to be mindful of the recent changes to the City’s Code related to fences, walls and screening. The changes are significant enough to warrant a review of Chapter 28, Article II, Sections 28.51 through 28.54 of the Code on the Murphy web site, [www.murphytx.org](http://www.murphytx.org) under Codes and Ordinances.

Here are a few highlights.

All fence construction or rebuilding will require a permit from the City. However, during or directly after hazardous weather conditions, it’s not uncommon for emergency fence repairs to be required. In those instances, a permit before starting repairs is not a requirement, but one must be obtained before completion of the repairs.

When a fence or its repair is completed, the resident is to notify the permit department for a final inspection and closure of the permit. All damaged, removed, or missing portions of fencing must be replaced or repaired with materials comparable in nature and color to the remaining fence and will be considered minor repairs. Any appeals to this section are to be presented before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

For fences of uneven heights, a stair step transition or effect is required where the uneven heights connect or meet. Fence posts are not allowed to face a public right of way.

For homes within a subdivision that has a recognized homeowners association (HOA), applications for fence repair permits will not be accepted without written approval from the HOA.

“Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances covers a wide range of Development Standards, and should be carefully reviewed prior to any major or minor repair, change, modification of alteration of residential and commercial property,” added Gensler.

Questions should be directed to the Code Compliance office at 972-468-4064.

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**ABOUT MURPHY** -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County and bounded by Plano, Richardson, Wylie, Sachse, and Parker. While only about four square miles in size, the population is approximately 18,020. The population is generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. Determined to maintain a country living ambiance, city planners strive to preserve that feel while still exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in America for small cities.