



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
Fire Engineering Division**

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**STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S  
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2009**

**Committee Goal:** To provide a means of communications between the Offices of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of industry, the public and the fire service; and to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulations and intended future action.

**Members Present:**

Mike Waldron, RA-OSFM  
Russell Blair, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Dept.  
James Carver, El Segundo Fire  
Randy Dysart, Jorgensen & Co  
Jim Feld, U.C. Berkeley  
Chris Gilbert, Master Protection Corporation  
Steve Hart, NAS-IP  
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen & Co  
Bruce Lecair, National Fire Sprinkler Association  
Ken Liming, Insurance Services Office  
Jim McLaughlin, Lund, Pearson, McLaughlin  
Stan Smith, Sprinklers Fitters 483

**Members Absent:**

James Parsegian, Program Coordinator-OSFM  
Vikkie Raby, Program Assistant-OSFM  
Craig Voelkert, Amerex Corp.  
Darrell Harguth, Brooks Fire Equipment  
Fred Benn, Advanced Automatic Sprinkler  
Patrick Chew, City of Roseville Fire Department  
Dennis Grubb, Orange Co. Fire Authority  
Wayne Martin, FPE  
Robert Raymer, CA.Building Industry Ass.  
David Casey, Department of State Architect  
Robert Nolan, ASCIP (Schools)  
Robert Rowe, FSABSC  
Lorin Neyer, OSHPD  
Allen Quirk, Paraclete Fire & Safety Inc.

## **I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Mike Waldron substituting for Chairperson James Parsegian @ 10:05a.m., on Thursday, July 16, 2009.

## **II. ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTIONS**

Helen Brockenbrough called the roll, substituting for Program Assistant Vikkie Raby.

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from April 9, 2009, were reviewed. Let the minutes reflect that Jim McLaughlin would like all future minutes to reflect that Advisory Committee Meeting minutes will be posted in a timely manner until this is accomplished.

Mr. McLaughlin motion to accept minutes as amended by, seconded by Mr. Dysart, motion approved.

James Parsegian called in to update committee members on the request from National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) to establish a Special Task Force to develop a "Best Practices" document for the Testing and Maintenance of water based fire suppression systems. According to Bruce Lecair, West Regional Manager of NSFA, "The Best Practices developed by this proposed task force would assist in protecting our commercial and industrial fire protection systems in accordance with NFPA 25, and at the same time give contractors and local jurisdiction level ground for working in compliance with the federal and state laws governing our water usage and disposal."

James Parsegian from SFM will co-chair this task force, second co-chair will be James Carver Fire Marshal El Segundo Fire Department, Steve Hart will be the recorder and Bruce Lecair NFSA representative will provide technical assistance as the requester.

James Parsegian also updated the committee on current legal proceeding relating to American Fire Protection.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- I. NFPA 25 – an extensive discussion on NFPA 25 occurred Mike Waldron suggested and everyone agreed to postponed the discussion until the end of the meeting and begin a workgroup meeting and to continue reviewing proposed amendments to NFPA 25.
- II. SB275 – Steve Hart shared progress of this bill with the committee. Professional Engineers pertaining to clarification of wording for "Professional Engineer." Would still give allowance for designers to install their own design as contractors. This bill seems harmless to contractor and enforcement communities. Steve will continue to track and comment.
- III. Limited License. Discussion led by James Carver regarding changes to Limited Licensing Category. The main concern is that unqualified techs are doing the fire pump weekly testing. Mike Waldron has been tasked with developing a test to certify pump testers, James Carver, Bruce Lecair and

Steve Hart will assist in the development of the test used to qualify individuals performing weekly pump tests. James Carver is developing a power point presentation to give to FPO and consumer groups to explain the new license IV. Sticker Proposal. Bruce Lecair led discussion on what the workgroup hopes to accomplish with this proposal. Jim McLaughlin emphasized the need for training to end user as well as the AHJ. Committee Members showed some concern that the task maybe overly optimistic. All agreed a need to gather hard data with regard to IMT of systems.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Steve Hart led discussion on LAAFAM “hot button” issues.

1. Underground piping. Stan Smith asked if underground joints must be exposed for inspection. If buried before inspection, they must be dug up (by the contractor). The 2007 IFC says that they can bury them, but must dig them up for inspection. Some contractors are confused between “test” and “inspection”.
2. Power driven studs.
3. Chain driven pizza ovens. Mike Waldron led discussion regarding this requirement. He asked the committee if a FAQ regarding this issue would be sufficient, or would a bulletin be necessary. It was noted that a bulletin should be worded carefully to include a case for “grease laden vapor.”

Information Only: Additionally, The Roseville Fire Department contacted Steve regarding antenna relay towers in lieu of hardwire for either Fire Alarm or activation of flow monitoring. Steve explained that this is probably a moot point since NFPA allows this non-hard wired system.

Tire Storage. Steve Hart discussed “Bulk Tire Storage.” The IFC refers to actual volume of storage (20,000 cubic feet) for each individual pile (2 cubic feet per tire). See CFC 902.1 **TIRES, BULK STORAGE OF.**

Main Drain Test: Ken Liming spoke regarding ISO requirements. ISO maintains a database of commercial buildings and performs inspections. Many sprinklered buildings do not received credit because of a lack of maintenance/records. Ken expressed an interest in the “sticker program.” He feels that such a program will allow property owners to receive proper credit for the water-based fire extinguishing systems.

ISO inspectors receive six weeks of training on the evaluation of fire sprinkler systems. If documentation is over one year old, only partial credit is given.

A main drain test consists of observing and recording static and residual pressures. Ken recommended that those pressures be included in the data the State Fire Marshal Office is proposing to collect.

**VI. OPEN FORUM**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

October 22, 2009. 9:30am @ SFM. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.