



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION  
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**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
**Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19, 2014**

**COMMITTEE GOAL**

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

**STAFF**

Jeff Schwartz, Committee Chair  
James Parsegian, Division Supervisor  
Vikkie Raby, Support Staff  
Kevin Reinertson, Acting Division Chief

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

\*Darryll Bolden, Los Angeles City Fire Dept.  
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen & Company  
Fred Benn III, Advanced Automatic Sprinkler, Inc.  
Jim McLaughlin, Lund Pearson McLaughlin  
Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corp.  
Bruce Lecair, National Fire Sprinkler Association  
Lawrence Shulman, Pacific Gas & Electric Co.  
Tracy Staiger, City of Merced Fire Dept.  
\*Robert Nolan, Anaheim Fire Dept.  
Craig Voelkert, Amerex Corporation  
\*Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment Company  
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California  
Robert Rowe, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board  
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE  
\*James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department  
\* *Via Conference Call*

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Stephen D. Hart, NSFA  
James Feld, University of California Berkeley  
Steve Fox (alternate), Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices  
Chris Heyer, Beverly Hills Fire Department  
Ken Liming, Insurance Services Office Inc.  
Robert Raymer, California Building Industry Assoc.

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### **MEMBERS ABSENT (cont'd)**

Sandie Hastings, Torrance Fire Department  
Stanley Smith, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices  
Allen Quirk, Paraclete Fire & Safety Inc.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Schwartz at 9:05 A.M. on  
February 19, 2014.

### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A round table roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum of members were  
present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINTUES**

The minutes for February 19, 2014 were distributed to the group for review. Jim  
McLaughlin motioned to approve minutes as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Benn; all in favor,  
none opposed; motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Title 19**

The 45 day comment period has closed. There was only one significant change  
suggested. References to 2010 were changed to 2013 throughout the document.  
There were other minor changes that were made as well for clarification and  
consistency. All changes that were made have been highlighted on the document for  
easier identification. The Title 19 package has been published for the 15 day public  
comment period. It is estimated to be submitted to OAL and ready for publishing by  
April or May. The anticipated effective date for changes would be April 1<sup>st</sup>. NFPA 2013  
California Edition cannot be published until it has been fully approved. Jeff Schwartz  
will notify the group when the document is approved and posted to the web.

#### **NFPA 25**

Lawrence Shulman provided an update regarding the NFPA 25 workshop he attended.  
Larry indicated that he will share the final document with the group for review and input  
once it is received. Jack Thacker brought up occupancy verification prior to stickering  
risers to assure the occupancy type is still valid. He feels the current occupancy should  
be used to determine compliance rather than the original design of the space. Larry  
stated that no concrete decisions were made but the issue was discussed. Jack feels  
the AES committee should address the issue rather than waiting for NFPA. Sandie

Hastings expressed her opinion that the issue is a training problem with the local  
inspectors and not something the group should be addressing.

A motion was made by Bruce Lecair to draft a white paper regarding occupancy  
verifications and the best way to address the issues and concerns raised by Jack  
Thacker; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stanley Smith; 15 in favor, two opposed; motion carried by majority

vote. Jack Thacker and Lawrence Shulman will work together to draft the white paper and return to the group during the next meeting for review and discussion.

### CPVC Update

Jeff Schwartz stated that the SFM will be drafting an Informational Bulletin (IB) for distribution regarding the CPVC issue. He also stated that the main issue being addressed will be installation. They expect the IB to be completed next month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### AB 433

Stanley Smith provided Handout #1 which was distributed to the group for review. This document provides an explanation of the changes to AB 433 will present for the OSFM. This includes the development of a new certification program. It was suggested that a workgroup be formed the purpose of the group is to gather information and to make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal if a certification program is needed for the sprinkler industry.

The proposed scope of the workgroup is as follows:

- To determine what the minimum qualifications/standard requirements would be
- Recommend which systems should be included in the new L&C program development
- Outline the procedure for skills verification and ongoing education requirements

**NOTE:** It was determined that the initial focus will be suppression systems only, but alarm systems and fire doors may be added at a later date. Once the initial scope is determined, the committee will provide more specific direction the workgroup for the next area of focus. The regulations and development of a database must be addressed as well as staffing issues/concerns.

The following individuals volunteered for the workgroup:

- Darrell Hefley
- Stanley Smith
- Randy Roxson
- Bruce Lecair
- Robert Rowe
- Steve Fox
- Robert Nolan
- James Carver
- Darryll Bolden
- Edie Wade
- Fred Benn
- Jack Thacker

The meeting date for the workgroup will be determined at a later date and all participating members will be notified via email.

### NFPA 13 ESFR Code Change

Bruce Lecair provided Handout #2 which was distributed to the group. The document explains the changes made to NFPA 13, 2013 Edition, regarding Sprinkler System Discharge Criteria. The main changes pertain to the issues regarding the use of K-14 sprinklers when the ceiling height exceeds 35 feet. For higher ceilings, use K-16.8, K-22.4 or K-25.2 (for ceilings 40 feet or higher). This was presented for information purposes only and is not a topic for further discussion or review by the committee.

### FD ITM Educational Awareness Training

Bruce Lecair has asked the group for input on ideas regarding outreaching to the locals for training. It was suggested that a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document similar to what the OSFM produced for the UL300 updates in 2008 may be helpful.

Sandie Hastings made a motion to establish a small workgroup to develop the FAQ; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim McLaughlin; all in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

The following individuals volunteered for the workgroup:

- Steve Fox
- Bruce Lecair

It was determined that the initial document should be available for review by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **OPEN FORUM**

#### Water Discharge During Drought Conditions

Jeff Schwartz discussed the concerns of water usage for system testing during the current drought conditions. It was suggested that the OSFM would issue an IB on the topic. Bruce Lecair mentioned that a document already exists that sets the parameters for water testing during drought conditions that states the local water purveyors will set approve the alternate testing standards. This document is available on the Fire Engineering website. The web link to that document is:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/aes/waterdischargemanual.pdf>

#### NFPA Training

NFPA will be providing training to local AHJs regarding changes to NFPA 25. This training is not currently available to industry or other associations. James Parsegian stated the OSFM will attempt to get committee members into one of the classes. James has asked for suggestions on training facilities that might be available for use throughout the state. If you have any knowledge of facilities that may be used, please submit them to James via email.

### UL300 Upgrades in Schools

Allen Quirk brought up the discussion of UL300 exceptions in schools. It was confirmed that until state law changes, the exception for schools regarding modernization upgrades will remain in force. James Parsegian agreed to contact DSA for confirmation.

### Contact Information Updates

Vikkie Raby asked that if you have any updates to your current contact information the changes be emailed to her within 10 days. The updated roster will then be distributed to the group for review and then posted to the web.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. AB 433 Workgroup Update
2. FAQ draft for NFPA 25, 2013 Edition
3. White Paper on Occupancy Type vs. Commodities Storage
4. DSA input regarding UL300 exception for schools

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was set for May 21, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 A.M.