



**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
September 24, 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
Kevin Reinertson, Acting Division Chief
Mike Richwine, Assistant State Fire Marshal

MEMBERS PRESENT

Darryll Bolden, Los Angeles City Fire Department
James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department
Sandie Hastings, Torrance Fire Department
Chris Heyer, Beverly Hills Fire Department
*Tracy Staiger, City of Merced Fire Department
*Fred Benn III, Advanced Automatic Sprinkler, Inc.
Darrell Hefley, Jorgenson & Co.
*James McLaughlin, Lund Pearson McLaughlin
Allen Quirk, Paraclete Fire & Safety, Inc.
Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corp.
*Craig Voelkert, Amerex Corporation
Bruce Lecair, National Fire Sprinkler Association
Ken Liming, Insurance Services Office, Inc.
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE c/o Jorgenson & Co.
*Lawrence Shulman, Pacific Gas & Electric
*Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment Company
Robert Raymer, c/o California Building Industry
Stanley Smith, Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California
Tom McKinnon, California American Fire Sprinkler

**via conference call*

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Feld, University of California Berkeley
Robert Nolan, Anaheim Fire Department
Stephen Hart, NSFA
Robert Rowe, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Potter,

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Schwartz at 10:00 A.M. on September 24, 2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Stan Smith made a motion to approve the May 22, 2014 meeting minutes, James Carver seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Title 19

Jeffrey Schwartz announced that the regulations package for Title 19 is complete. The forms are on the OSFM website as of September 23, 2014. The package is considered effective at this time and he expects the NFPA print copy by end of the year.

AES Certification Workgroup

James Parsegian gave a presentation regarding the AES Work Group and the most recent data collected from the fire service. *Slides 4-9

James explained the results to the committee as well as the lack of response in the data collection from the contractors. *Slides 22-24

James Carver explained information regarding El Segundo Fire Department and the results of reports of installation issues which resulted in re-inspections.* Slides 10-13

James P then discussed the results of reports of installation issues resulting in re-inspections for Anaheim Fire Department. * Slides 14-18

OSFM Analysis of Complaints

Jeff S talked about the analysis of complaints with the OSFM. From 2008-2013 there were 66 complaints to the OSFM. Beginning in 2009, the form was changed to provide more detail about the complaint which resulted in fewer complaints. In addition there is a direct link to CSLB for complaints against C-16s. * Slide 19

Darrell H explained the numbers from his contractor survey responses. * Slides 20-21

Jack T explained the numbers from his contractor survey responses. * Slides 22-24

The committee then reviewed the remaining slides submitted. * Slides 25-28*

*See Automatic Extinguishing System Certification Issue PowerPoint

There was a motion by James Carver to form a Certification Work Group to develop a proposal of regulations for an AES Certification Program for all water-based fire protection systems, engineered systems and AES systems contained in Chapter 5 including installation, testing and maintenance. The motion was seconded by Randy Roxson.

Jeff S clarified to the committee what the intent of the motion was and James P discussed what was included in Inspection, Testing and Maintenance.

Jim Potter brought up the issue that some people only do inspections while others only do installation and the difference between them as it relates to the AES Certification Program. Concerns of a certification program and what that program would cover in the areas of:

1. Inspection, Testing and Maintenance (ITM)
2. Underground
3. Plumbers
4. One man certified per job site
5. Economic impacts
6. Shortage of sprinkler fitters
7. Qualified individual alternatives

James P clarified that there would be a multi-level certificate program. Installation would be covered under one certificate while testing and maintenance would be covered under another category. James clarified that the work group would develop the categories.

*Slide 2

Darryl H voiced his concern about the amount of interests at the meeting today and what the ultimate decision will be due to some committee members not fully understanding what they are voting on.

Jeff S clarified that the earlier presentation was intended to answer questions the committee had from the work group. Also, how the regulations are developed is up to the work group.

James P explained the point that some people have a third party credentials and we can consider accepting that for certification at the State Fire Marshal's Office. He suggested the idea of peer review for certification for those who have not had formal training.

Mike Richwine clarified that the SFM office has no intent to create a training/ apprenticeship program. The intent is to see what programs are already out there and recognize them if possible. *Slide 3

James P mentioned continuing education and how the details would be developed by the work group. *Slide 4

Enforcement was the next topic and James P referred to the Health and Safety Code, Article 1, Section 13112. Violations and Penalties are under Section 13199 and there was a brief discussion of each violation. *Slides 5-9

The Department will determine the degree of severity:

1. Seriousness
2. Willful or intentional
3. Acted in good faith
4. Has the respondent engaged in similar behavior?
5. Level of penalty or sanction to deter future violations
6. Any other matter that justice may be required

*See OSFM Vision for AES Certification PowerPoint presentation

Kevin R reiterated that this is just a discussion of thoughts that will be developed. Specifics will be determined by the work group.

Mike Richwine feels that there is value in having a certification program because we are placing more and more responsibility on sprinkler systems. The SFM is to be seen as insurance for the installation, testing and maintenance to be performed.

There was more round table discussion regarding peer review certification, contractor training, and the regulations that the work group will be creating.

James P began discussing the program costs which would include enforcement. Once the regulations are developed, the SFM will determine how to structure the fee schedule to cover the cost of the program.

Jeff S the work group and SFM will do their best to determine the number of certificates there would be within the program to make it cost effective.

Kevin R stated that there are two parts for this vote. The first part is for this committee to move forward to have some type of certification program while the second part is creating the working group to propose their plan to the AES Committee for approval.

A motion was made by James Carver for formation of a Certification Work Group to develop a proposal of regulations for an AES Certification Program for all water based fire protection systems, engineered systems and AES systems contained in Chapter 5 including installation, testing and maintenance and it was seconded by Randy Roxson. Jeff Schwartz called for a vote; 12 in favor, 9 opposed to create a Work Group to develop a proposal of regulations for an AES Certification Program.

Occupancy Verification Paper

Jack Thacker and Larry Shulman put together a white paper: "*Managing Change in Sprinklered Occupancies*". There was discussion regarding the need for a statewide mandate to address the changes to occupancies as noted in the white paper. There seems to be a disconnect throughout the local jurisdictions in regards to the commodity and density of fire sprinkler systems, which will require additional training.

It was noted by the members that the California Fire Code contains requirements in the standard and is not within the scope of the AES Committee.

Tracy S feels this is an educational component that should be going out to the local AHJ.

Larry S feels this topic will be addressed at the national level within the next few years.

Education paired with the new forms in NFPA 25 should help to address this issue. It might not be a long term solution but for the short-term goal it should help.

The committee does not feel that this should be addressed by them, but it should be addressed by the local AHJ at their annual conference in Buellton.

Five-year Inspection

Jack Thacker gave his Allan Automatic of Southern California report on statistical information on the effectiveness of the NFPA 25 program in California. He stated that statistics show that Inspection, Testing and Maintenance is effective.

*Contractor Survey

Backflow Residential Sprinklers

Jeff Schwartz brought up the Information Bulletin for low flow residential sprinklers. It is currently being developed by Jeff Schwartz and Patrick Chew of Roseville Fire Department.

NEW BUSINESS

James Parsegian-Received a request for regulation change in NFPA 25 and NFPA 72 for the issue of flowing water on an annual basis rather than a quarterly basis.

James will send out information to the committee once he receives it from the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee.

OPEN FORUM

Randy D reported an error on the new electronic forms. Form AES 1 specifically is in need of edits.

James M made a motion to create an informational guide for use of the forms by the end user. Fred Benn seconded, all were in favor.

Action Item: Creating a work group to develop a guide will be determined.

Darryl B brought up issues regarding access to occupancies with limited access and requested input on the issue.

James P stated that the State Fire Marshal leaves inspection enforcement of NFPA 25 to the local AHJ and the contractor.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Forward recommendations of the AES Certification Program to the State Fire Marshal
2. Create a work group for new NFPA 25 forms guidance
3. Information Bulletin-Backflow Residential Sprinklers
4. Provide information to the committee regarding quarterly water-flow testing in accordance with NFPA 25/72

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on December 16, 2014 at 10:00-2:00 in Sacramento, CA at the OFSM. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.