



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
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**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2013**

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

James Parsegian, Committee Chair
Jeff Schwartz, Program Coordinator
Yevonne Costa, Support Staff
Tony Guevara, Enforcement Coordinator

MEMBERS PRESENT

Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen & Company
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE
James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department
Sandie Hastings, Torrance Fire Department
Fred Benn III, Advanced Automatic Sprinkler, Inc.
Jim McLaughlin, Lund Pearson McLaughlin
Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corp.
Stephen D. Hart, NSFA
Bruce Lecair, National Fire Sprinkler Association
Lawrence Shulman, Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
Stanley Smith, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment

* *Via Conference Call*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Craig Voelkert, Amerex Corporation
Robert Calderon, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
James Feld, University of California Berkeley
Darryll Bolden, Los Angeles City Fire Dept.
Chris Heyer, Beverly Hills Fire Department
Brian Weidman, Long Beach Fire Department
Allen Quirk, Paraclete Fire & Safety Inc.
Ken Liming, Insurance Services Office Inc.
Robert Nolan, ASCIP

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Robert Raymer, California Building Industry Assoc.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson James Parsegian at 10:00 A.M. on October 8, 2013.

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 previous meetings will be distributed to the group via email when completed, and will then be posted to the web.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval Title 19 Forms

James Parsegian distributed Handout #8, which included the following forms:

1. AES 1
2. AES 2.2
3. 2013 California Fire Code, Chapter 9

It was proposed that Section 5.21.5 be stricken. Motion to strike by Bruce Lecair; James Carver second. 1 opposed; all others in favor; motion carried.

NFPA 25

The current package will be returned to Diane Arend for the 45-day comment period. It will be submitted to OAL by January.

****ACTION ITEM:** Jeff Schwartz will pull Chapter 12 from the Enforcement Package and add it to the NFPA 25 package.

****ACTION ITEM:** need to prepare informational bulletin to explain the delay of the NFPA 25 package.

CPVC Fittings

A workgroup meeting will be set in a few weeks to discuss the root cause of failure on CPVC fittings. It was suggested that the manufacturers of this product should be invited to participate and provide insight on their product. The new workgroup established for this task includes:

- Fred Benn
- Bruce Lecair
- James Carver
- Stanley Smith
- Jack Thacker

A tentative conference call was set for this workgroup for October 29, 2013, at 9:30 A.M.

NEW BUSINESS

This meeting was called as a Joint Committee Forum for the purpose of bringing together the multiple agencies that have enforcement authority over the Laws & Regulations pertaining to both Automatic Extinguishing Systems and Portable Fire Extinguishers. Mr. Joseph Martinez, Investigator with the Contractor State License Board (CSLB), gave a presentation to help assist with the clarification of what should be reported and what the process for the investigation of the complaints submitted to CSLB is. Handout #1, titled Automatic Fire Suppression System, was distributed to the group. This lists the most common violations found, and the relevant statutes for each. CSLB reports that the most common violations found/reported are as follows:

- Failure to obtain permission from property owner/manager
- No worker's compensation insurance policy
- Impersonating a fire official to gain access to property
- Failure to exercise the manual pull during maintenance
- Servicing non-UL300 compliant systems
- Working without valid license/permit
- No approved plans on file

Handout #2, titled Fire Protection Systems Flow Chart, was distributed to the group. This includes directions on how to determine who the violations should be reported to, the OSFM or CSLB. It includes directions for both inspection and maintenance of existing systems as well as for new construction.

James Parsegian gave a presentation on the OSFM side of enforcement. This included details on the Laws & Regulations handbooks that are available. It also provided insight as to who can submit complaint forms and the process that should be used when filling out the complaint form for submittal. An overview of the OSFM Administrative Action Procedure is currently as follows:

- Warning
- Suspension
- Fine in Lieu of Suspension
- Both Fine and Suspension
- Revocation

- Incarceration

For matters that require any civil process, i.e. monetary settlement, lawyer fees, criminal lawyer fees, probation, etc., the expenses can become extremely costly for the individuals as well as the department.

In closing with the joint meeting, the recommendation to establish a CSLB/OSFM Pilot Task Force was mentioned. This group would work to provide the following resources/assistance to local authorities having jurisdiction:

- In-field resources for Fire Departments
- Improved report writing
- Improved investigation techniques
- Improved handling of cases/complaints
- Improved outcome of investigations

It is believed that by improving interdepartmental communications, the task force could prove to be successful.

OPEN FORUM

James Parsegian explained that next meeting will deal with approving the NFPA forms.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. Everyone will be notified via email when the date has been set. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.