



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION**

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 445-8396  
Website: [www.osfm.fire.ca.gov](http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov)



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2014  
Main Conference Room, Office of the State Fire Marshal**

**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, Fire Engineering

Vikkie Raby, Support Staff, Fire Engineering

Tonya Hoover, State Fire Marshal

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

\*Darryll Bolden, Los Angeles City Fire Department

\*James Carver, El Segundo 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.

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

Stanley Smith, Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices

Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California

\*Brian Weidman, Long Beach Fire Department

\*Robert Rowe, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

James Feld, University of California Berkeley

*\*via conference call*

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Robert Nolan, Anaheim Fire Department  
Robert Raymer, c/o California Building Industry  
Vahid Toosi, Orange County Fire Authority  
Sandie Hastings, Torrance Fire Department  
Chris Heyer, Beverly Hills Fire Department  
Craig Voelkert, Amerex Corporation  
Tom McKinnon, California American Fire Sprinkler

## **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Steve Fox, (ALTERNATE) Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices  
Todd Golden, U.A. Local 709  
Chuck Frame, U.A. Local 669

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Schwartz at 10:09 A.M. on December 16, 2014.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Randy Dysart and Lawrence Shulman asked that page numbers and meeting locations be added to the minutes. It was also noted that JORGENSEN was misspelled. Page 3 should be updated to reflect that J. Thacker and L. Shulman submitted separate papers during the meeting, not reconciled. Page 2 discussion should have more detail, as not everyone saw the PowerPoint presentation.

Stan Smith made a motion to approve the September 24, 2014 meeting minutes as amended; vote was postponed due to the many amendments needed. Vote will take place via email once the corrections have been made.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NFPA 25 Update**

J. Schwartz stated the latest draft is pending approval with CAL FIRE legal department. Chief Hoover explained that there is an issue with the NFPA contract regarding limitations on publishing. Chief Eck is working with the legal department to reword the contract language with the Building Standards Commission. The publication goal date is February 1<sup>st</sup>, but is not guaranteed.

There are several issues found with the new AES forms that are posted to the CAL FIRE web for use. J. Thacker would like to see the changes made by February 1<sup>st</sup> to coincide with the estimated publish date for NFPA 25. The issues include technical language errors and ease of use issues. R. Dysart would like to see the forms unlocked as a WORD document rather than PDF format.

J. Feld asked whether the committee would be given the opportunity to review NFPA California Edition before publishing. J. Schwartz stated it will delay the process but he will send out the document to the committee if that is what they would like. J. Schwartz asked for a volunteer to take the place of R. Dysart on form development for ease of use corrections and the development of a "How To" guide for the forms.

J. Schwartz stated the deadline for corrections and suggestions on the forms will be Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### AES Certification Workgroup Update

J. Parsegian stated the OSFM is moving forward with the proposed certification program. There will be a Phase-In approach as follows:

1. Certificate program
2. Inspections
3. Testing and Maintenance

J. Parsegian stated the development of the phase-in will go to the workgroup. The goal is to get the program into place without disrupting construction. The workgroup members will be selected by invitation only. The invitation letters to the 11 workgroup members will go out next week. The chairperson for this workgroup will not be an OSFM representative, although OSFM staff will assist. The workgroup's main goal will be the development of regulations for the certification program. D. Hefley asked that the list of workgroup members also be emailed to the committee members. It is anticipated that the workgroup will begin meeting in January, meeting about once a month.

Chief Hoover explained that if the money portion does not go through, the certification program will not be established, however, she would like the group to move forward with the regulation development.

**ACTION ITEM:** J. Schwartz to email list of workgroup members to committee by December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Meter Setter Information Bulletin

The Information Bulletin on Meter Setters was reviewed bullet by bullet; J. Schwartz made all edits while the document was being reviewed. Vote to approve has been tabled pending corrections.

**ACTION ITEM:** J. Schwartz to discuss possible Building Materials Listing program listings for meter setters with J. Parsegian.

**ACTION ITEM:** J. Schwartz to schedule a meeting with a water purveyor for input.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Review of AES Repairs and Permitting Requirements

L. Shulman asked about permitting requirements for AES emergency repairs. J. Schwartz suggested that the inquiry should be submitted as a Code Interpretation Request.

#### Requirement with NFPA 25 Owners Responsibility

J. Thacker asked whether NFPA 25 allows them to withhold the riser sticker if the building/system owner does not complete the required forms. Does that count as a deficiency? He states that when he places the sticker on the riser, the assumption by the locals is that he has ensured that all deficiencies have been corrected and that the system is compliant. He feels that withholding the sticker if the owner has not completed the proper forms would force the owners to take responsibility for their systems. Edie Wade asked a clarification question: if it is a tenant occupied building, do you have to go find the owner to have them fill out the required forms? Jack stated he typically deals with tenants as opposed to owners. L. Shulman reminded the group that Title 19 says a system cannot be certified until all deficiencies have been corrected. J. Feld stated he feels that you can put the sticker on the riser whether or not the form has been completed, as it is only

required if there have been changes to the occupancy type. B. Lecair states that you cannot enforce the Annex, which is where the form is located, so therefore it should not be considered a deficiency. D. Bolden asked if the owner is currently required to sign the form. The group agreed that the form is not required in order to place the riser sticker. J. Thacker states that the intent of the owner responsibility for completing the form is for the owner to confirm/acknowledge that there has been no change in the occupancy and therefore feels that failure to complete the form should be considered a deficiency. J. Carver states that it is up to the AHJ to enforce Chapter 4, not the contractor. J. Carver read Section 4.3.1 which states the form shall be made available to the AHJ upon request; it does not require the contractor to request the form. D. Bolden stated that the contractor can pass on the liability to the AHJ by notifying them that there is a concern that the occupancy type has changed since the initial design and installation of the system. L. Shulman stated that the typical contractor does not have the skillset to perform an occupancy evaluation nor to assist the property owner/tenant to conduct an occupancy evaluation and therefore this should be left to the local AHJ. S. Fox stated that even without the form, the system would still be functional (provided there are no deficiencies noted) without the form and therefore the sticker should not be withheld due to an incomplete form. In order to consider the lack of form to be a deficiency, the definition of DEFICIENCY would need to be changed in the code. J. Thacker has asked for an information bulletin that defines that Chapter 4 is enforced by the local AHJ rather than the contractor. J. Schwartz referenced Section 4.1.6.1 NOTE which says you will inspect, test and maintain the system as originally installed. Any changes to the system are the responsibility of the building owner. J. McLaughlin referenced Section 4.1.5.1 which says the evaluation required by 4.1.5 shall NOT be considered part of the normal inspection, testing and maintenance required by the standard. He feels per that section, the lack of the completed form would not constitute a deficiency.

#### Requirement with NFPA 25 for Fire Pump Testing

J. Thacker has a concern with stickers being placed on the riser when records are not provided or when the pump has not been tested in accordance with NFPA 25 requirements. He is finding riser stickers being placed when there are no records of the weekly or monthly tests being performed. He is finding systems that have not been tested in so long there are cobwebs.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on February 24, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. in Sacramento at the OFSM. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M.