



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
AES Certification Regulations Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2015
El Segundo Fire Station #2, El Segundo, CA
Time: 10: AM – 4:00 PM**

COMMITTEE GOAL

To create regulations for the implementation of a certification program for individuals who perform the installation and maintenance of fire suppression systems.

STAFF

Jeff Schwartz, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Wanda Albritten, Assistant Program Coordinator

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Blaul, SFM Designated Chair
Bruce Lecair, National Fire Sprinkler Association
Darryl Hefley, Jorgensen & Co.
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE
Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department
Darryl Bolden, LA City Fire Department
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Assoc. of CA Union
Robert Rowe, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
Steve Fox, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices Local 483
John Upshaw, California American Fire Sprinkler Association
Tom McKinnon, American Fire Sprinkler Association
Wayne Weisz, Cen-Cal Fire Protection

MEMBERS ABSENT

Patrick Chew, Roseville Fire Department

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Dwight Greene, Accredited Training Solutions
Todd Golden, Sprinkler Fitters Local 709

Stan Smith, Sprinkler Fitters Local 483
Peter Hulin, Superior Automatic Sprinkler

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairperson Laura Blaul called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM on February 11, 2015.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jeff Schwartz conducted a roll call and it was determined that we had a quorum. This workgroup, at the request of the State Fire Marshal Chief Tonya Hoover, is tasked with creation of regulations for the implementation of a certification program for individuals who perform the installation and maintenance of water based, engineered and pre-engineered fire suppression systems.

DISCUSSION

Jeff Schwartz informed the group of the ground rules. Robert's Rules will be followed. All guests have representation on this workgroup. You are asked to use those representatives for comments or points of discussion. In addition, the timetable is very aggressive. A draft of the regulations needs to be completed by June or July of this year. The Office of the State Fire Marshal wants these regulations to be effective by January 2016.

Bruce Lecair made a motion that all votes must have 70% for the motion to carry; the motion was seconded by Randy Dysart. All voted in favor of the motion.

The scope of the group is to create a program that standardizes training based on standards and not practices or procedures of fire suppression companies. This will ensure consistency and quality assurance to protect citizens of California and without causing an economic impact to them. Jeff Schwartz provided the following goals:

- Level playing field for training (statewide certification) for
 - Installation
 - Testing & Maintenance
 - All types of Automatic Systems from Chapter 5 throughout should be considered
- Allowance for specialty contractors
 - Specialty breakdown
 - Levels of training for each breakdown
- Training requirements
- Continuing Education
- Exam process/practical
- Renewal process
 - Expiration period
 - Renew every year

- Retest 3 years or Continuing Education Units
- Working hours and testing
- Legacy clause
- Implementation period
 - Phased
 - Deadline
- Enforcement program
 - AHJ & OSFM in the field
 - Administrative

Laura Blaul suggested this group of stakeholder make a list of must have and cannot have in this program. The list is as follows:

Must Have	Cannot Have
Fair Program to all for all programs	Not Fair to Contractors
Reciprocal Program	AHJ Only
Legacy(Grandfather)	No 3rd Party Enforcement
Fair Enforcement Policy by OSFM/AHJ	One Cert per Job
Cert for Installing/Maintenance and Training Requirements	Weak Qualification Requirements
Test Integrity-Equal to all (standardization)	Public Registry for all
Stop Work Order-Clearly Defined	AHJ <i>May</i> Enforcement
Enforcement Avenue in Regs.	Definition of Journeyman/Apprenticeship
Mimic Enforcement of Fire Extinguishers of Program	
AHJ Shall Enforce	
Min. Numbers for Journeyman-Status	
Define Qualifications	
Who Can Provide Continuing Education Units	
Clear path to Enforcement	

Bruce Lecair requested see presentations on four subjects listed below. He believes this would give the group a better understanding of all of the exciting training programs and will help to ensure that informed decisions can be made for the development of this program. The four presentations are:

1. Outline of the Union Apprenticeship Program
2. Outline of the Non-Union Apprenticeship Program
3. The other States in the US that have programs similar to what is being developed
4. What the Federal Regulations Standards are for the Sprinkler Industry

The group agreed. These presentations will be done via *Go-To Meeting* on March 25, 2015 at 9 AM.

Tom McKinnon suggested that NICET be included in the presentations and be looked at during the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Presentations
2. Clarification of Engineered/Pre-Engineered Systems

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Thursday, March 26, 2015 in Woodland at the Woodland Fire Department from 10 AM - 4 PM. A conference line will be available. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

DRAFT