

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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**EMERGENCY EVACUATION INFORMATION
TASK FORCE****MEETING ACCOUNT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2002****Meeting Attendees:**

Hugh Council, *Chair*
Jim Abrams, *California Hotel and Lodging Association (via teleconference)*
Bill Crandall, *Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute*
Larry Hageman, *Larry Hageman and Associates (representing AMSECO-KAI Corporation)*
Capt. Thomas Harvey, *San Francisco Fire Department*
Linda Huber, *Division of State Architect, Access Compliance*
Eugene Lozano, *Disability Management Counselor, CSU Sacramento (via teleconference)*
Chris Louros, *Trammell Crow Company (representing BOMA)*
Manny Muniz, *Manny Muniz Associates*
Linda Myers, *California Association of Orientation and Mobility Specialist*
Pat Stranahan, *San Francisco Fire Department*
Sharon Toji, *Access Communication*

Opening Remarks:

Hugh Council spoke to the group about the State Fire Marshal's Office's agreement with Building Standards Commission (BSC) regarding what the State Fire Marshal's Office is doing with new codes and that few new standards are to be introduced into the next code cycle. Hugh stated that the State Fire Marshal's Office does not plan to introduce many new code changes between now and the next code cycle, because they want to spend as much time as possible reviewing the proposed codes and deciding which code they are going to adopt next cycle. At this point it is uncertain whether the State of California will adopt the IBC or the NFPA document.

Hugh reminded the group that this issue does not affect Title 19, Section 3.09, and that new building code changes could still be proposed through Division of the State Architect/Access Compliance.

2002 Amendments to the California Building Code :

Jim Abrams told the group that not all of the proposed changes were put into the Building Code, but the vast majority of them were. Some that were adopted were:

- ◆ requirements for stairway level identification
- ◆ requirements that exit signs be tactile, using either raised letters or Braille

Jim said that the Building Code will be published in March 2002, and the new codes will become effective about September 2002. Some of the items that were not adopted into the Building Code will be proposed to the Building Standards Commission by the California Accessibility Task Force to go into the next adoption cycle. Those proposals must be submitted no later than April 5, 2002. Jim said that anyone from the Emergency Evacuation Information Task Force is welcome to attend the California Accessibility Task Force meetings.

Gene suggested that the group could work with Division of the State Architect Access Compliance Task Force to create a symbol to convey non-accessibility at an entrance/exit/ramp where there is no entrance/exit for wheelchairs. Gene noted that this might be proposed for the next code cycle, or developed as an interim policy for supplementary signage.

International Activities Survey Results :

Bill Crandall discussed a research document about an emergency escape route lighting study done in Great Britain in 1997. There was brief discussion regarding emergency escape route lighting being useful for people with low vision.

General discussion about signage followed at length. A point was made that having exit doors clearly marked is most important. Another point made was to make evacuation plan and emergency exit information that is available to sighted persons accessible to visually impaired persons.

Audible Exit Sign Tests:

Due to time constraints, Hugh moved this item to next meeting's agenda. He asked the group to bring any and all information obtained so far on the audible exit sign issue to the next meeting. The information will be copied and put into binders to be used by task force meeting attendees. At the next meeting the group will discuss the next step in the audible exit sign development.

Guidelines for Fire Service Professionals:

Hugh asked Sharon Toji to work up a draft on Guidelines for Fire Service Professionals to distribute to the group at a future meeting. Task Force members would then review the document on their own time.

Group discussion of the document would be on the agenda of the following meeting in order to help move the project forward.

Closing Remarks:

Hugh asked the group to review Jim Abrams's 3.09 document and prepare comments before the next meeting. Discussion of the 3.09 document will be the first agenda item at the next meeting. Hugh suggested that the group focus on the following changes to 3.09:

1. improve standards for signs (improved usability)
2. include information to Fire Service Professionals about placement of signs
3. come up with standards and performance criteria for the audible exit sign

Set Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 12, 2002, beginning at 10:00am at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1131 S Street, Conference Room, Sacramento, CA 95814.