



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
Fire Alarm Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2014**

COMMITTEE GOAL

To advise the State Fire Marshal on proposed regulations and technical issues by providing views and comments from members of industry, the public, and the fire services.

STAFF

James Parsegian, Supervising DSFM, Chair
DeeDee Garcia, Assistant Program Coordinator

MEMBERS PRESENT

Walter Brandes, Riverside County Fire Department
Rick Cortina, Pyro-Comm Systems, Inc.
Ronald Farr, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Bill Hopple, Hopple & Co.
Jay Levy, Hochiki America
Rick Lewis, Rolf Jensen & Associates
Michael Reeser, Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Services
Richard Roberts, Honeywell Life Safety
Ken Quick, Culver City Fire Department

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Connaughton, Intertek -ETL
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company
Gary Dunger, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Ray Iverson, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department
Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Patrick Ward, AON Fire Protection Engineering

GUESTS PRESENT

Wendy Gifford

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson James Parsegian at 1:10 P.M. on February 5, 2014.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

James Parsegian conducted a roll call and it was determined that a quorum of members were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee members review the minutes of September 24, 2013. Richard Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes and Rick Cortina seconded the motion. James Parsegian called for a vote and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

OLD BUSINESS

The new smoke alarm regulations are currently out for public comment. Comments will be circulated within the advisory committee for review.

Information Bulletin 13-006, regarding the new smoke alarm laws was published on the OSFM website on November 18, 2013. This bulletin answers most questions concerning the new law. James Parsegian will work on getting the bulletin out to building officials/inspectors.

NEW BUSINESS

James Parsegian indicated that there have been staffing updates at the CAL FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). DeeDee Garcia is the new Assistant Program Coordinator for the Building Materials Listing (BML) and Vapor Recovery Programs replacing Ian Lyman. A new Deputy State Fire Marshal III- Specialist has been hired for the BML Program and is currently in background. He will have a start date in May or June 2014. Until then, all questions regarding the BML Program should be directed to James Parsegian. Jason DeWitt has been promoted to a DSFM III, Fireworks Program Coordinator. Jeffrey Schwartz has recently been promoted to a DSFM III, Fire Extinguisher and Automatic Extinguishing System Program Coordinator.

James Parsegian brought up the Informational Bulletin from September 8, 2008, regarding the replacement fire alarm systems. Rick Lewis of Rolf Jensen & Associates, mentioned an issue regarding conflicting information between Code Interpretations 12-001 and 12-002, information bulletins, and Building Code section 907.5.2.3. The exception for the visual alarm notification appliances and the rate at which they are brought up to code contradicts what the code interpretations states. Also must consider what ADAG requires and how it relates. James Parsegian requested that all the documents be sent to each member and have a discussion at the next meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Bill Hopple brought up the issue of Potter Electric Signal Co. and their new product, the VSR-AT and how it does not verify that there is any flow. Also, it is not listed with CSFM; however the company website states that the VSR-AT is CSFM listed and UL/FM approved. The Committee agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

Rick Lewis brought up the code adoption cycle, specifically California Building Code Section 907.6.1.1, for the wiring of circuits for high rises and the exceptions. CI cable issue of survivability is not addressed. This adds up to 30-40% to project costs. The justification points to providing survivability, however there are already survivability requirements from NFPA 72. This also includes all buildings, not just Class A on new construction.

Rick Lewis conveyed concern regarding 520 Hz. in sleeping rooms and the confusion of the intent of 520 Hz. and the requirement for it. Chapter 29 reverts to Chapter 18 and there is a misinterpretation of what exactly is required from a fire alarm for mild to severe hearing impairment. To some it is being interpreted as every room needs it. Rick Lewis will write up and submit a Code Interpretation to the process. James Parsegian suggested the idea of going back to the days when code issues when to the various committees for their expertise.

ACTION ITEMS

- Update the Smoke Alarm Information Bulletin (James Parsegian to add the exception relating to hardwire, smoke detectors and Smoke Alarms that transmit to a panel).
- Send all documents relating to replacing or upgrading Fire Alarm Control Panels {CI 12-001, 12-002, 907.5.2.3 and the ADAG, (Rick Cortina will provide James Parsegian a copy of the ADAG)}.
- DeeDee Garcia will set up a meeting on Fire Alarm panel replacement with committee members.
- DeeDee will send out the committee procedures to the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee.
- DeeDee will update the committee roster on the web.

NEXT MEETING

May 14, 2014 from 10:00 am to noon (Pacific Standard Time) at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1131 "S" Street, Sacramento. A conference line and GoTo Meeting will be available.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Chair James Parsegian, at 2:25 pm