



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

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**CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 18, 2014

Location: Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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*
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company
Tom Connaughton, Intertek – ETL*
Rick Cortina, Pyro-Comm Systems, Inc.
Wendy Gifford, Consultant
Bill Hopple, Hopple & Co.*
Jay Levy, Eaton
Rick Lewis, Sabah International
Richard Roberts, Honeywell Life Safety
*via conference line

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Dunger, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Ronald Farr, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
Michael Reeser, Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Services
Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
Ken Quick, Culver City Fire Department
Patrick Ward, AON Fire Protection Engineering

GUESTS PRESENT

Ben Ho, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Glenn Tong, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, San Francisco Fire Department

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson James Parsegian as 10:03 AM on November 18, 2014.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

DeeDee Garcia conducted a roll call and it was determined that we had a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the May minutes: Rick Cortina made a motion, Richard Roberts seconded, all in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.
2. Approval of the August minutes: Shane Clary made a motion, Wendy Gifford seconded, all in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on CSFM Smoke Alarm Listing Requirement:
James Parsegian clarified the smoke alarm listing requirements according to new law and Ben Ho reminded everyone about the updates that were posted in the Information Bulletin (IB) 13-006 (http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2013/13-006_SB745_Smoke_Alarm.pdf) in regards to new existing listings for smoke alarms and the deadline date.
2. Fire Alarm Panel Replacement IB:
James clarified that an Information Bulletin is meant to be used as guidance to the local jurisdictions. He also mentioned that the OSFM Fire and Life Safety Division- Plan Review Unit still uses them today. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai asked for clarification on the fire alarm control panel replacement and requirements for what components have-to be upgraded including the audible signal for the hearing impaired in sleeping areas. Ben stated that the OSFM was planning on updating/revising the IB and will including examples but it really comes down to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to make the final decision within their respective jurisdictions. James requested the committee to take on the task of revising the IB (http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2008/IB_WUI-FAC_FINAL_20080910.pdf). They agreed and Rick Cortina, Bill Hopple, Walter Brandes, Sagiv Weiss-Ishai and Rick Lewis volunteered to work on it.

Action Item: Have a report for the next meeting.

3. DMP Throttling:
Shane Clary discussed the throttling issue and explained that the equipment has UL approval and is listed with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. He stated that by understanding what throttling is and how the equipment works would indicate that there is no issue with data throttling. Shane asked about the status of the action item from last meeting regarding the letter on throttling. James Parsegian stated that a letter is not the best course of action and suggested that an IB would be better to option to explain throttling. Shane expressed his disappointment with the letter not being written. Walter Brandes suggested the OSFM make a phone call to the next in line at the local level to get things clarified should the issue arises again.

Action Item: No further action

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Title 19, California Code Of Regulations regarding Waterflow Valve:
James discussed the proposed language code change for NFPA 25 & 72 from Potter Electric Signal Company for their product, the VSR-AT flow switch. They have submitted the regulation change to Chief Kevin Reinertson who referred it to the Automatic Extinguishing Systems and Fire Alarm Advisory Committees for review. The committee discussed the code change and James Parsegian asked if there was a motion for the language. Rick Lewis and Bill Hopple voiced their concerns about the language change and the committee decided it would be best if Potter Electric Signal Company propose the regulatory change at the national level. Bill Hopple made a motion to not approve the language and refer Potter Electric Signal Company to the National Standards Committee to make the change rather than at the State level, Rick Cortina opposed and the rest were in favor.

Action Item: James will send Potter Electric a letter informing them of the committee's decision.

2. Ionization/Photoelectric Statement on OSFM Listings
Richard Roberts brought up a statement on the OSFM BML listings regarding photoelectric/ionization effectiveness. He explained that it is unnecessary for system detectors since all system detectors have microprocessor and the statement somewhat is mis leading. He made a recommendation to remove the statement and opened it up for discussion within the committee. The Committee agreed and Richard then made a motion to remove the statement from system detector listings (UL 268), Shane Clary seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed.

Action Item: Change will be made on the next renewal cycle

3. The Use of Notification Appliances (Strobes) in Bathrooms (Group R-2 Occupancies)
Shane Clary discussed strobes and whether or not they are required in R-2 bathrooms. He is experiencing conflict and would like to get it clarified. There was discussion around the room in regards to this.

Action Item: No action since it is not a state issue at this time

4. 2013 CFC Section 907.5.2.3 & 2012 IFC Commentary
Bill Hopple discussed some code changes in the California Building Code and California Fire Code
5. NFPA 72 Adoption
James discussed the NFPA 72 adoption and how he needs the Committee to review the SFM amendments in the CBC & CFC. Bill Hopple, Shane Clary, Richard Roberts, Rick Cortina and Sagiv Weiss-Ishai volunteered to work on the language and Bill Hopple will chair this work group.

Chief Kevin Reinertson came and gave an update on the adoption process and discuss the adoption package and informed the Committee that the amendment to NFPA 72 is still possible. Chief Reinertson explained how the timeline works in regards to the public comment period. James Parsegian suggested to the committee that two scenarios need to be discussed in case one does not work and that we need to make an amendment now if they want it to happen.

Action Item: DeeDee will set up a conference call for this discussion.

OPEN FORUM

1. NFPA membership- James was looking into getting an OSFM staff member an NFPA 72 committee. He asked for the group's opinion as to which committee they felt we should be on. There was a round table

discussion on this and the committee recommended that the Testing & Signaling Committees would be the most beneficial.

Action Item: James will look into this and see what the office can do as far as membership and getting on one of these committees.

2. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai mentioned that at the last State Agency Forum he spoke with Chief-Reinertson about a Class A Code Interpretation for existing buildings. He feels it is too vague and would like clarification on Code Interpretation # 14-006. There was a round table discussion on this and James informed Sagiv that there needs to be further discussion immediately in case the group decides they want to do an amendment because they will need to get it to Kevin Reinertson by January.

Action item: A conference call will be set up by James Parsegian.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2015 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Pacific Standard Time) at the Hilton Palm Springs Hotel, 400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. A conference line and GoTo Meeting will be available.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Chair James Parsegian at 12:11 PM.