



**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  
June 18, 2015**

**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  
Ben Ho, Retired Annuitant

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Walter Brandes, Riverside County Fire Department  
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company  
Rick Cortina, Pyro-Comm Systems, Inc.  
\*Ronald Farr, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Regulatory Services  
Wendy Gifford, Nest Labs  
Jay Levy, Cooper Notification  
Pat Ward, AON Fire Protection Engineering  
\*Bill Hopple, Hopple & Co.  
\*Richard Roberts, Honeywell Life Safety

*\*Via Conference Call*

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tom Connaughton, Intertek -ETL  
Gary Dunger, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
Rick Lewis, Rolf Jensen & Associates  
Ken Quick, Culver City Fire  
Michael Reeser, Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Services

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Kirk Greenwood, Simplex-Tyco

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson James Parsegian at 1:10 PM on June 18, 2015.

**II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

DeeDee Garcia conducted a roll call and it was determined that a quorum of members were present.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee members review the minutes of January 28, 2015. Shane Clary made a motion to approve the minutes and Jay Levy seconded the motion. James Parsegian called for a vote and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

1. James Parsegian informed the committee that John Parssinen from UL was on the phone to assist in questions regarding UL 217 for smoke alarms and UL 985 for listening devices; accessories to a fire alarm control panel. James then went on to discuss a specific product that had previously been rejected by the OSFM and this product has since come to our attention through the fire service that the makers of this product are advertising it as part of a fire alarm system. James asked for the committees input regarding this issue. Ben Ho clarified that the OSFM has determined that this product is a fire alarm accessory; therefore, it must be listed as required by State law. However, there is no current standard to list it to. There was a roundtable discussion on what standard this product should be tested to due to its features and intended purpose. James concluded that he will send out the inquiry letter from the SoCal Devices Committee as well as the response from the OSFM to the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee. He asked the committee to make recommendations on both letters for next meeting.
2. Shane Clary expressed his concern about the issue of testing the alarm. His concern is that the lack of picking up an alarm if a door was closed and the alarm was not interconnected. Kirk Greenwood clarified that the installation manual explains this.
3. James also gave an update on the Information Bulletin regarding smoke alarm requirements. He stated that it is a clarification to what the manufacturer and consumer have to do for the new law.
4. James provided an update regarding SB1394 compliance for smoke alarms. Letters have been sent out to the manufacturers with the renewal notices back in mid-March to allow sufficient time for them to revise these listings so they stay compliant. After June 30, 2015 all BML Program listings for smoke alarms that are not in compliance with SB 1394 will not be renewed and deleted from our web site.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

1. James provided an update on the OSFM BML Program Coordinator. This position has been reclassified from a Deputy State Fire Marshal III-Specialist to a Senior Mechanical Engineer. They are in the hiring process for this position.

2. James briefly spoke on a legislation update and mentioned an ongoing bill, AB 1411-Garcia, regarding clothes dryers. This bill would require, on or before December 31, 2016, the State Fire Marshal to work with fire service entities, the appliance industry, disability advocates, and related stakeholders to accomplish certain things, including gathering information, and providing findings and recommendations to the Legislature, regarding fires related to type 1 clothes dryers, as defined, and the dangers of excessive lint.
3. The next discussion was on SB1394 as it relates to Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Section 208(d) Exception (C). This exception indicates that smoke alarms that use low-power radio frequency wireless communication signal for interconnection are exempt from the requirement under SB 1394. The issue with this exemption is that the battery is not required to be supervised. The committee discussed various scenarios and solutions. James then asked UL how they test and what the requirements currently are required under UL 217. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the test standards has no requirements for supervision while the 7<sup>th</sup> edition will have requirements for supervision and it will be out in less than one year. Ben suggested putting this issue on hold and waiting until we see something for the revised UL217 before we consider changing anything. The committee was in agreement on this idea.

#### **VI. OPEN FORUM**

1. Shane Clary brought up complaints and fines from local authorities having jurisdiction and environmental groups regarding the flowing of water when testing fire sprinkler system as well as a concern during the drought. He feels that the OSFM should be assisting in this issue and push for support of the best practices manual across the State. James stated that Chief Hoover is informed of the issue and he will do some research on this issue to provide her with information. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

#### **VII. NEXT MEETING**

September 22, 2015 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.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by Chair James Parsegian, at 2:40 PM.

Meeting Minutes developed by:  
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