

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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

Meeting Date: June 28, 2012  
Meeting Location: Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Main Conference Room  
1131 S St., Sacramento, CA 95811

**Staff Present:**

James Parsegian, Supervising DSFM, Chair  
John Guhl, Supervising DSFM, Technical Advisor  
Ian Lyman, MST, BML Assistant Program Coordinator

**Members Present:**

Diana Licon, Division of the State Architect  
Walter Brandes, Riverside County Fire Department  
Tom Connaughton, Intertek-ETL  
Rick Cortina, Pyro-Comm Systems, Inc.  
Ron Farr, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Regulatory Services  
Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.  
Jay Levy, Hochiki America  
Rick Lewis, Rolf Jensen & Associates  
Richard Roberts, Honeywell Life Safety  
Patrick Ward, AON Fire Protection Engineering  
Bill Hopple, Hopple & Co.  
John Mapes, Foster City Fire Department  
Michael Reeser, Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Services

**Members Present \* Via Conference Call:**

Richard Henks (for Shane Clary), Bay Alarm Company

**Members Absent:**

Gary Dunger, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

**Guests Present:**

Wendy Gifford, Consultant

**I. Call to Order**

James Parsegian called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

**II. Roll Call and Introductions**

James Parsegian welcomed everyone to the meeting and self-introductions were conducted.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

No previous meeting minutes were available.

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#### IV. Old Business

##### A) Committee Appointment

James Parsegian explained the committee will be reconvened and most of memberships expired June 30, 2012. James stated that prospective members submit appointment requests on company letterhead to State Fire Marshal Tonya L. Hoover with a carbon copy to James Parsegian.

#### V. New Business

A) Wendy Giffords provided a presentation concerning a "smart" ionization smoke alarm. Many of the benefits included the ability to significantly reduce the number of nuisance alarms, which is the biggest reason for smoke alarms to be disabled. She emphasized the need for regulators to allow for room for innovations with new technologies.

##### B) Smoke Alarm Task Force Final Report Recommendations

James gave a brief summary about the OSFM Smoke Alarm Task Force's Sixteen Recommendations that the OSFM Fire Alarm Advisory Committee (Committee) will work on in the near term.

James explained the regulatory process that is expected:

- 1) Regulations will be promulgated with the assistance from the Committee.
- 2) The Committee will have a final vote and it will be submitted to the Chief Ben Ho for approval.
- 3) OSFM's Code Development and Analysis Division will review the package and applies necessary edits.
- 4) Chief Hoover will give a final approval and it will be submitted to Agency.
- 5) Regulations package then moves to the Building Standards Commission' Code Advisory Committee. A public hearing would take place (they are required at certain stages thereafter).
- 6) If the package moves forward, it would go to the Building Standards Commission for a vote.
  - a. California's Fire Code deadline for changes is late 2012 for an effective date of 1/1/2014.
  - b. Pat Ward offered a reminder that regulations have an effect on California Fire Code, Building Code, Residential Code and Title 19.

Individual Recommendations discussed included:

#1) Adoption of NFPA 72 section 29.8.3.4(4) concerning placement of smoke alarms near bathrooms and cooking appliances.

- Draft language was formed in the meeting.
- Concern existed to allow room for developing technologies to become listed that are designed for close proximity to cooking appliances, etc.

#3) Regulations to minimize nuisance alarms by conventional ionization smoke alarms within 20 feet of permanent cooking appliances.

- Draft language was formed in the meeting.
- Definition of conventional ionization technology was deemed necessary though challenging. Various industry definitions included term usage, such as:
  - Crystal-based microprocessor controlled
  - Ionization without code being processed (non logic decision making)
  - Sensor output isn't mathematically evaluated to determine when signal is warranted.
- A workgroup to be chaired by Richard Roberts was formed to draft a definition of "conventional ionization technology", including Ron Farr, Wendy Gifford, Rick Cortina and Rick Lewis.

#4) Regulations which would require replacement of smoke detectors and alarms after ten years of the date of manufacture on the device.

- Discussion took place concerning AB 1394 that has a ten year battery requirement and general real-life battery life versus laboratory ratings.

#5) Regulation that would require smoke alarms to be in required locations when homes are sold with the requirement that they display the date of manufacture, which may not be more than ten years old.

- Pending legislation is covering this topic.

#6) Requirement for battery powered conventional ionization smoke alarms to have batteries with a ten year life to reduce disabling of alarms to silence low battery signals or alarms left without battery replacement.

- The need for alarm being tamper proof was mentioned.
- Recommendation to be reviewed by a work group at a later date.

## **VI. Open Forum**

- Howard Hopper stated that UL Codes and Technical Services have a new Linked In account. He had business cards for it that he distributed.
- Additional discussion took place concerning AB 1394. James related that if it passes, OSFM would evaluate and create a regulations package for compliance. If the code cycle conflicted, emergency regulations would be needed.

## **VII. Action Items**

- Prior open agenda items to be compiled and placed on the next agenda for committee review.
- The “conventional ion” definition workgroup is to provide a definition before the 7/14/2012 Committee interim conference call.
- OSFM shall follow up concerning proposals to be submitted to the Underwriters Laboratories’ (UL) UL 217 STP Committee per Recommendation# 7.
- OSFM shall follow up concerning a letter to be addressed to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 Chapter 29 Technical Committee and the NFPA Fire Protection Research Foundation per Recommendation# 8.
- The Committee shall oversee developments concerning UL 217, UL 268 and NFPA 72 per Recommendation# 9.
- Prospective Committee members submit appointment requests on letterhead to State Fire Marshal Tonya L. Hoover with a carbon copy to James Parsegian.

## **VIII. Next meeting**

- The next quarterly Committee meeting wasn’t scheduled and was to be scheduled during the 7/14/2012 conference call.
- The workgroup for “conventional ion technology” definition was scheduled to meet in a web conference call Tuesday, 7/3/2012 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific time. It shall forward the draft language to the Committee.
- An interim conference call to review a draft of regulations was scheduled to meet in a web conference call Tuesday, 7/17/2012 from 10:00 a.m. – Noon Pacific time.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by James Parsegian, at 3:24 P.M.

Meeting Minutes Developed by:  
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