



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
Fire Engineering Division**

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**STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S  
Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 7, 2010**

**Committee Goal:** To provide a means of communications between the Offices of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of industry, the public and the fire service: and to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulation and intended future action.

**Members Present:**

James Parsegian, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Darrell Hefley – Jorgensen Company  
James Carver – El Segundo Fire Department  
Randy Dysart – CALSAFE (via conference call)  
Chris Gilbert – Simplex Grinnell/Fire Master  
Bob Gebel – Torrance Fire Department / LAAFMA  
Loren Blasdell – Porterville Fire Department  
Edie Wade – Brooks Equipment Company (via conference call)  
Mike Brand – BRANDCO Company  
Darrell Harguth – Brooks Equipment Company  
Bob Franck – Redondo Beach Fire Dept.  
Glenn Younger – Calif. Small Business Assoc.  
Craig Voelkert – Amerex Corporation Company

**Members Absent:**

Kent Miller – Port of Stockton  
Nancy Ahlswede – Southern California Apartment Association  
David Hanson – Raytheon Company  
Robert Nolan – ASCIP (Schools)  
David Casey – Division of State Architect  
Chris Hoiland – CALSAFE/Orange County Fire Protection Company  
Daniel Fitkin – Cintas Fire  
Robert Calderon – Kaiser Foundation Hospitals

**Committee Goal:** To provide a means of communication between the Offices of the State Fire marshal, representatives of industry, the public and fire service: and to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulations and future action.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson James Parsegian at 10:15 A.M., Wednesday, July 7, 2010.

**Roll Call and Introduction:** A round table roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum of members were present. James asked each attendee to verify their individual roster information to assure accuracy of information.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Loren Blasdell to approve minutes and motion was seconded by James Carver. Minutes approved as written.

### **Workgroups:**

**Training:** Craig Voelkert gave a presentation on training – “Engine Company Training”, to enable fire personnel to know what to look for when they look at fire extinguishers in the field. The eight hour training program was presented at the combined FPO meeting in Buelton, CA. Comments about the program from target audience members at the meeting suggested that the eight hour program be condensed or broken down into one hour increments that could be further broken down to 20 minute segments. The premise behind this would be to allow fire department personnel to download the training module and use 20 minute segments during a morning briefing session. The following three sections of the program below could be broken down into smaller segments:

- **Code Standards and Clarifications**

Designed to provide “some” information but directs user back to the code standard guide.

- **Portable Fire Extinguisher Distribution and Placement**

Includes travel distance or “walking distance” (75 feet) for Class A, 30 feet: depending on hazard and rating, Class C- no footage: driven by hazard or requirement, Class D: 75 feet, Class K: 30 feet. Discussed corrections to various slides in presentation: Remove “B” in kitchen from Slide 51, Add “ if cabinet is locked, must be approved by AHJ, per James for Slide 52. James talked about code interpretation for cabinets: plexi-glass, scored, snap lock- the intent is that you must be able to gain access if locked. If approved by AHJ, it must be reasonable- “if locked, an approved means of access is required” is suggested wording. On slide 54 a change was made to state “ ADA guidelines limited to 48”.

- **Portable Fire Extinguisher Field Inspection and Maintenance**

Talked about some of the slides of program used as tools to show incorrect items on an extinguisher, ie wrong bracket, zero gauge, held on bracket by hose, seals, cabinets, tags, etc.. Noted that mounting distance should now be 48” instead of 60”.

Slide 58 was suggested to add wording “If bracket is in cabinet, it must be able to support extinguisher. It was recommended that a slide be added that would require the label for safety information to be in front of the unit. Went over “how to read a maintenance tag”...is it punched correctly, legible registration number and signature ( suggested perhaps a “stamp’ work for this). Slide 63: Add wording “next maintenance due one year from date punched”. Discussed problems that might be discovered at time of service, maintenance, six-year and hydro. Slide 75: Add “Hydro can be done by company other than company doing maintenance or six-year teardown”.

### **NFPA10 – Title 19 Review:**

Darrell Hefley went over the NFPA10 wording comparison to Title 19 and the recommendation that the work group suggested for adaptation to Title 19. Voted on each item code ( see “passed” Title 19 changes) A motion to move Title 19 package forward with changes was made by Darrell

Harguth and seconded by Craig Voelkert: passed unanimously. James thanked the workgroup on their hard work and effort to date.

**Regulations:**

Talked about the definition of a “service vehicle” and what the requirements for a service vehicle are. Ex: If an AHJ is going to an incident, they can ask for registration...if not a commercial registration it is not considered a service vehicle. Vehicle must have all equipment on board to be considered a service vehicle. Must have commercial plates, concern name and number on vehicle.

There is nothing you can do with extinguisher that is not included in the definition...exception: Personal car can be used for delivery of extinguishers, but not exchange of units. Concern name must be on both sides of vehicle, with letters at least 1 ½” high (both letters and numerals) For company name, E number and telephone numbers all letters and numbers must be permanently affixed, clearly visible and in contrasting colors to its background. Committee agreed to remove the word “exchange” from vehicle service definition until workgroup can create wording to define what “exchange” is. It will be added back in when “Exchange Program” is created. Motion by Randy Dysart to move Service Vehicle package forward...seconded by Loren Blasdell, all in favor.

**Extinguisher Exchange Program:** Has not yet met and can not make any recommendations at this time, other than agreeing to work on the definition of “exchange” at first workgroup meeting. Anticipate setting up workgroup meeting in coming month.

**Open Forum:**

James discussed letter received from the director of IRTA, requesting information on greenhouse gases (GHG’s) in California, contributed in part, to fire extinguisher applications. Information is limited but suggest identifying companies that are high users (telephone switching rooms, military, government, hospitals, etc). Information is difficult to obtain and questionable on accuracy. Agreed that committee could not help obtain this information at this time.

**Next Meeting:**

An October meeting will be scheduled for next committee meeting, hopefully in Southern California. James will send out list of available dates. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 P.M.