



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 Extinguisher Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2013**

COMMITTEE GOAL

To provide a means of communications between the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), representatives of industry, the public and the fire service; and to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulations and intended future action.

STAFF

James Parsegian, Committee Chair
Jeff Schwartz, Program Coordinator
Yevonne Costa, Support Staff
Tony Guevara, Enforcement Coordinator

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Romero, Kern County Fire Department
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen & Company
Frank Gardner, Stanford University
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
Bob Gebel, LA Fire Marshal Association
Nancy Ahlswede, Apartment Association, California Southern Cities Inc.
James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department
Mike Brand, Brandco
Robert Calderon, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals

** Via Conference Call*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Glenn Younger, California Small Business Assoc.
Craig Voelkert, Amerex Corporation
Chris Hoiland, Orange County Fire
JR Nerat, Badger
Robert Nolan, ASCIP
Tom Santos, Imperial Beach Fire Department.
Kent Miller, Port of Stockton
Daniel Fitkin, Cintas Fire Protection

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson James Parsegian at 10:00 A.M. on October 8, 2013.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

A round table roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum of members were present.

APPROVAL OF MINTUES

There were currently no minutes needing approval.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed during this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

This meeting was called as a Joint Committee Forum for the purpose of bringing together the multiple agencies that have enforcement authority over the Laws & Regulations pertaining to both Automatic Extinguishing Systems and Portable Fire Extinguishers. Mr. Joseph Martinez, Investigator with the Contractor State License Board (CSLB), gave a presentation to help assist with the clarification of what should be reported and what the process for the investigation of the complaints submitted to CSLB is. Handout #1, titled Automatic Fire Suppression System, was distributed to the group. This lists the most common violations found, and the relevant statutes for each. CSLB reports that the most common violations found/reported are as follows:

- Failure to obtain permission from property owner/manager
- No worker's compensation insurance policy
- Impersonating a fire official to gain access to property
- Failure to exercise the manual pull during maintenance
- Servicing non-UL300 compliant systems
- Working without valid license/permit
- No approved plans on file

Handout #2, titled Fire Protection Systems Flow Chart, was distributed to the group. This includes directions for how to determine who the violations should be reported to, the OSFM or CSLB. It includes directions for both inspection & maintenance of existing systems as well as for new construction.

James Parsegian gave a presentation on the OSFM side of enforcement. This included details on the Laws & Regulations handbooks that are available. It also provided insight as to who can submit complaint forms and the process that should be used when filling the complaint form for submittal. An overview of the OSFM Administrative Action Procedure is currently as follows:

- Warning
- Suspension
- Fine in Lieu of Suspension
- Both Fine and Suspension
- Revocation
- Incarceration

For matters that require any civil process, i.e. monetary settlement, lawyer fees, criminal lawyer fees, probation, etc., the expenses can become extremely costly for the individuals as well as the department.

In closing with the joint meeting, the recommendation to establish a CSLB/OSFM Pilot Task Force was mentioned. This group would work to provide the following resources/assistance to local authorities having jurisdiction:

- In-field resources for Fire Departments
- Improved report writing
- Improved investigation techniques
- Improved handling of cases/complaints
- Improved outcome of investigations

It is believed that by improving interdepartmental communications, the task force could prove to be successful.

OPEN FORUM

There was no open forum discussion during this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date has not yet been determined. All members will receive an email notification when the date has been confirmed. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.