



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
Web Site: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>
(916) 445-8476
(916) 445-8473 Fax



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2014**

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

Jeff Schwartz, Committee Chair
Vikkie Raby, Support Staff

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Romero, Kern County Fire Department
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen & Company
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
*Bob Gebel, LA Fire Marshal Association
*Robert Calderon, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
*Tom Santos, Imperial Beach Fire Department
Kent Miller, Port of Stockton
Daniel Fitkin, Cintas Fire Protection
*Chris Hoiland, Orange County Fire
*Craig Voelkert, Amerex Corporation
* *Via Conference Call*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Glenn Younger, California Small Business Assoc.
JR Nerat, Badger
Robert Nolan, ASCIP
Frank Gardner, Stanford University
James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department
Mike Brand, Brandco
Nancy Ahlswede, Apartment Association, California Southern Cities Inc.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Schwartz at 9:01 A.M. on April 9, 2014.

CONSERVATION IS WISE-KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN AND GOLDEN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT "FLEX YOUR POWER" AT WWW.CA.GOV.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

A round table roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum of members were not present. All action items requiring votes have been tabled to the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINTUES

Approval of the October 8, 2013, minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Regulations Update

Jeff Schwartz informed the group that the regulations package has been pushed back. There are changes that need to be made per CAL FIRE legal before the package will move forward. Section 604/605 is being pulled from this package and added to the enforcement package instead. Jeff Schwartz will try to have the package reviewed again by the committee once the changes have been made before it goes back out for public comment.

Re-certification Testing

The tests are currently being updated. Re-certification testing should begin again in 2015. Randy Dysart asked if the group would be able to review the updated exam books once they are completed; Jeff Schwartz stated he would allow the committee to review once they are completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Extinguisher Rentals

Anthony Romero presented an issue he has uncovered in the field of a company “renting” extinguishers to business owners. These rented extinguishers then have a label placed on the front of the extinguisher that states that it is owned by the extinguisher company and that no other companies are permitted to service. The question is:

- Is this a violation?
- Does this “service” then comply with the property owners responsibility for extinguisher maintenance?

It was suggested that the Business and Professions Code be reviewed to clarify the property owners’ responsibility on rentals, but it is the owner/occupants responsibility as stated in Health and Safety Code, Section 13190.3 *“Any portable fire extinguisher that is required to be installed by any statute or ordinance shall be maintained in accordance with the regulations adopted pursuant to Section 13160. (a) The owner or occupant of a property in which fire extinguishers are located shall be responsible for the inspection, maintenance, and recharging of the fire extinguishers. (b) Maintenance, servicing, and recharging shall be performed by concerns licensed by the State Fire Marshal having available the appropriate servicing manual, the proper types of tools, recharge materials, lubricants, and manufacturer’s recommended replacement parts or parts of equal quality.”* It appears that only violation of Title 19, California Code of Regulations

is Section 563 Operating Instructions. It states that *“(a) Extinguisher operating instructions shall be located on the front of the extinguisher and be clearly visible. Other labels and markings shall not be located or placed on the front of the extinguisher. EXCEPTION: Original manufacturer’s labels, labels that specifically relate to the extinguisher’s operation or fire classification or inventory control labels specific to that extinguisher. These labels shall not contain any company advertising.”*

Enforcement

It was discussed that the AHJ has authority to issue citations for violations, which can then be forwarded to OSFM for possible administrative action. Anthony Romero and Tom Santos mentioned they needed direction on how to complete the EN-17 (OSFM complaint form) for submittal. They will be working on drafting a process for AHJ/OSFM cooperation on investigations.

Randy Dysart expressed concerns that competitor complaints are not given much attention and has asked for the process pertaining to competitor complaints to be reviewed. Kent Miller suggested that the OSFM draft a document that helps to explain the compliant process. Darrell Hefley noted the EN-17 needs to be updated to include a signature specification.

Randy Dysart inquired as to the status of an OSFM citation program pertaining to violations in the field. Jeff Schwartz confirmed that the implementation of the program is currently being revisited by the OSFM.

OPEN FORUM

Randy Dysart shared a report from the US Coast Guard regarding fire extinguishers on vessels. Jeff Schwartz distributed the document to the group via email. This was for FYI discussion only, no action.

Craig Voelkert offered for Amerex to put together a class for the AHJs for training on extinguishers and systems. Anthony Romero stated he will work on getting together a group for training in his area. Tom Santos expressed interest in a group for his area as well.

Randy Dysart brought up the YouTube training video that was discussed but never materialized. Jeff Schwartz state the idea hit a wall. The group needs to develop a proposal/justification to request the topic to be revisited. Anthony Romero mentioned the idea of adding the training video to Target Solutions Online Training for continuing education purposes in place of the YouTube educational video. This subject should be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Darrell Hefley proposed the NFPA 10/Title 19 workgroup be reinstated to compare the new updates. This subject should be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Eddie Wade revisited the issue of fading inks on tags and collars. For now, black sharpie pens work best but the tags can be flipped over to preserve the ink for now. Eddie will bring further information to the group during the next meeting. This subject should be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Anthony Romero has requested that the topic of dated taper seals be discussed by the group. This subject should be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Drafting of a process for AHJ/OSFM cooperation on investigations
2. Review EN-17 signature specification

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date has been set for Tuesday, September 30, 2014. All members will receive an email notification when the date has been confirmed. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 A.M.