

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
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Fire Engineering Division

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MINUTES
SPECIAL EFFECTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: April 30, 2003

Meeting Location: California State Fire Marshal's Office
Sacramento, CA

Members Present:

Mike Richwine, Chair, Division Chief Fire Engineering Division
Patricia Sanchez, SFM Fireworks Program Coordinator
Al Adams, Technical Assistant
Lisa Dowdy, Program Assistant
Kevin Brueckner, Fireworks America
Gary Brown, Pyro Spectaculars
Harold (Mickey) Aronson, Disneyland Entertainment
Dennis King, AMPTP
Chuck Hughes, NBC Studios
Kief Adler, Western Pyrotechnic Association
George Jackman, De La Mare Engineering
Cal Acord, Warner Bros. Studios
Craig Canfield, Burbank Fire Department
Don Martin, Universal Studios
Tassilo Baur, ASEPO (for Jon Belyeu)

Members Absent:

Larry Shipp, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Richard Momii, Culver City Fire Department
Thaine Morris, MP Associates
Jon Belyeu, ASEPO

Guests:

Tassilo Baur, ASEPO
Ian Gilfillan, Pyro Spectaculars
Paul Cowan, National Civil War Association
Dennis Revell, Revell Communications
Ingrid Icasiano, State Fire Marshal Regulations
Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Marshal Regulations
Alan Bell, De La Mare Engineering
Jon Jacker, H. West Equipment

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richwine called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum established.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee members and guests made self-introductions.

CHAIR REMARKS

1. Limitation on Meetings & Workgroups

Chairman Richwine discussed the limitation on advisory committee meetings to once a year because of state budget issues and said that workgroups will continue to work on committee issues outside of regular committee meetings. Dennis King asked to go on record that he disagrees with the once a year meeting decision.

Action Item: Dennis indicated that he would be submitting a letter to Chief Tennant for reconsideration.

2. Combination of Advisory Committees

Chairman Richwine explained the break up of the original Fireworks Advisory Committee into three different committees consisting of a Safe & Sane Committee, a High Power Rocket Committee and the Fireworks Special Effects Committee. Committee members agreed that the current situation is working with separate committees and that the committees should remain separate.

3. Interested Parties List

Chairman Richwine announced that the current "Interested Parties" list will be forwarded to Code Development and will be used whenever there are proposed changes in regulations. A new list was distributed for the purpose of having individuals sign up to receive notices pertaining to meetings, agendas and minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the December 16, 2002 meeting minutes was made by Gary Brown and seconded by Dennis King. The meeting minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Theatrical Experience

Rodney Slaughter explained that the regulations package has been pulled from OAL and is on hold because clarifications regarding some language, number of logs entries and the percentage and types of effects/devices used, is required. Rodney said he would be willing to meet with the workgroup to address these issues. Al Adams suggested that the issue be brought back to the workgroup for another attempt at addressing the above issues. Mike asked for a motion to bring it back to the workgroup. The motion was made and passed. The workgroup will consist of Al Adams, Don Martin, Tassilo Baur, Rodney Slaughter, Craig Canfield, Mickey Aronson, Dennis King, Cal Acord, Kevin Brueckner and Chuck Hughes.

Action Item: Al Adams will establish a date and location for the workgroup meeting and will contact members of this workgroup with the information.

2. Public Displays for Motion Picture/Television

Tassilo Baur discussed that, historically, a public display license has not been required for a motion picture event and that such event is not considered an "entertainment feature". He also mentioned that the Attorney General's opinion does not define the term "entertainment feature". Randy Roxson explained that the Office of the State Fire Marshal currently has an agreement with the industry (AMP & ASEPO) and if changes were to be made, such agreement and request must be submitted to the committee chair and such information shared with the entire committee.

3. High Explosive Materials

David Pier discussed his concerns regarding proposed changes in the Cal OSHA regulations that state high explosive items not listed in Title 19 CCR, on Table 14A, cannot be regulated by the State Fire Marshal. Mike explained that the State Fire Marshal's (SFM) office is currently working on a letter of understanding between SFM and Cal OSHA to address this issue. The committee previously decided to drop this issue at the December 14, 2002 meeting and not add any additional materials to Table 14A.

Action Item: After further discussion it was decided that Chairman Richwine would continue to discuss this issue with Cal OSHA and provide information to the committee at a later time.

4. **Orange County Shows**

Al Adams explained that Orange County had adopted a local ordinance requiring all shows shot in their county to be electrically fired. He discussed the issue with Orange County officials. It was determined that the ordinance was adopted by mistake. Orange County is now in the process of deleting the ordinance.

5. **Reference Letters**

The workgroup chaired by Gary Brown, presented draft language to the committee. Mr. Brown advised the committee that the information regarding this change was disseminated late to all workgroup participants. Discussion followed with regards to allowing reference letters to be sent into SFM under separate cover; however, such policy would impact the processing time of applications.

Action Item: Chairman Richwine remanded the issue back to the workgroup for further changes and to draft justification for the changes.

6. **Unlicensed Assistant**

Gary Brown explained that the workgroup drafted and presented language to amend the regulations pertaining to unlicensed assistants at the December 16, 2002 meeting. It is the recommendation of the Unlicensed Assistant Workgroup that the committee move forward with the submitted language for a regulation change.

Action Item: Chairman Richwine requested the workgroup to draft justification for the regulation change and submit it to Fireworks Coordinator Patricia Sanchez. Chairman Richwine requested a motion to adopt the new language. A motion was made and passed.

7. **Mighty Mite Mortars – Item held over**

8. **Rewrite of Pyrotechnic Operators Exam**

Chuck Hughes discussed how current Title 19 regulations are very clear as to the requirements of questions pertaining to laws, regulations and license scope. Chairman Richwine explained that the SFM was considering contracting with an outside agency to write examinations, however because of budget concerns the contract was never finalized.

Action Item: Mr. Hughes will notify Chairman Richwine and Fireworks Coordinator Patricia Sanchez of the next workgroup meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. IES Presentation

Jon Jaker presented a system for the destruction of fireworks. A test will be conducted on June 11, 2003 at their facility in Romoland, CA consisting of safe & sane and illegal fireworks. Mr. Jaker discussed that the system will destruct approximately seven tons of product per hour at an approximate rate of \$3.00 per pound. He also confirmed that the Air Quality Management District is willing to provide the necessary permits. Mr. Jaker told the committee that product can be submitted for the test but the size of the product and a material safety data sheet are required. Chairman Richwine asked for a motion to select a workgroup. A motion was made and passed. The workgroup consists of: Dennis Revell, Dennis King, George Jackman, Cal Acord, Tassilo Baur, John Kelly, Mickey Aronson, Al Adams and Gary Brown.

Action Item: A workgroup meeting was set for May 7, 2003 at 10:00 am at the IES facility located in Romoland, CA

2. NFPA 1126

Chief Tennant has requested that the Special Effects Advisory Committee develop and adopt language from NFPA 1126 for Title 19 regulations that pertain to theatrical and nightclub venues. Chief Tennant feels that these new regulations will assist local jurisdictions with enforcement issues in these types of venues. Al Adams provided a comparison of NFPA 1126 to Title 19. Chairman Richwine requested a motion to form a workgroup to work on the draft language for Title 19. A motion was made and passed. The workgroup consists of: Mike Richwine (Chair), Al Adams, a representative from SFM Code Development, Kevin Brueckner, Tassilo Baur, Don Martin, Dennis King, Chuck Hughes, Craig Canfield, Mickey Aronson.

Action Item: A meeting date of June 12, 2003 was set with the location to be announced. **Note:** following this meeting it was determined that the meeting would take place at the Burbank FD Training Facility at 10:00am.

3. Civil War Association – Paul Cowan

Mr. Cowan provided a presentation regarding the role of pyrotechnics in civil war reenactments. These events are done for public education and use black powder and model rocket igniters to fire the cannons. Mr. Cowan voiced concern that these types of events and the operators who shoot them do not fit within the current licensing scope of Title 19 pyrotechnic regulations. Mr. Cowan's civil war association has produced their own standards for such displays and seeks permission to do such events under the license he currently holds with the State Fire Marshal's office.

The committee discussed alternative methods in which Mr. Cowan could produce such effects and still be within his licensing scope and the scope of Title 19 regulations for such an event.

Action Item: Chairman Richwine advised Mr. Cowan to submit a letter explaining his situation and justification for a change in current regulations. It was also determined that Mr. Cowan and that the Civil War Association will need a GPD license for their events.

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