

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
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MINUTES
SPECIAL EFFECTS FIREWORKS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 25, 2004
NBC Studios

Members Present:

Michael Richwine, Division Chief
Patty McKinnon, SFM Fireworks Program Coordinator
Al Adams, Technical Assistant
Tony Guevara, Technical Assistant
Caroline Fudge, SFM Program Assistant
Harold (Mickey) Aronson, Disneyland Entertainment
Gary Brown, Pyro Spectaculars
Cal Acord, Warner Bros. Studios
Tassilo Baur, ASEPO (for Jon Belyeu)
Dennis King, AMPTP
Don Martin, Universal Studios
Chuck Hughes, NBC Studios
Larry Shipp, Los Angeles City Fire Department

Members Absent:

George Jackman, De La Mare Engineering
Thaine Morris, MP Associates
Russ Laurie, Western Pyrotechnic Association
John Belyeu, ASEPO (Rep. Tassilo Baur)
Kevin Brueckner, Fireworks America
Craig Canfield, Burbank Fire Department

Guests:

Brian Heyman, Southern CA. Edison
Frank Ledesma, LA County Fire Department
Jason Wiens, LA County Fire Department
Belinda Diaz, LA County Fire Department
Jim Kross, LA County Fire Department
Tom Richards, LA County Fire Department
Tim Vanderlip LA County Fire Department
Tom Newman, Pyrotechnician

Meeting Minutes-August 25, 2004
Special Effects Fireworks Advisory Committee
Page 2

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 hours by Chief Mike Richwine, Chairperson of the Special Effects Fireworks Advisory Committee at NBC Studios, Burbank.

I. ROLL CALL

Roll call of the Advisory Committee Members was conducted.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions of Committee members and guests were conducted.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Richwine announced that we have a new Fire Marshal, Ruben Grijalva, and gave a brief overview of his experience and qualifications.

Gini Krippiner, Division Chief of SFM Code Development, is retiring September 1, 2004

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 4, 2004

Chairperson Richwine asked for approval of minutes from May 4th, 2004 meeting and apologized for the delay in distributing the minutes. Discussion took place as to the importance of receiving the minutes in a timely manner. Because they were not received in time for review, he recommended that the committee members review the minutes and get back to Caroline with any changes/additions. The minutes will then be returned to the committee for approval.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Richwine brought up the discussion regarding consolidating the three Fireworks Advisory Committees back into one committee. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the importance of these committees, as well as the frequency of them. It was agreed that the meetings would be held on a quarterly basis.
- Chief Richwine explained the function of the Fire and Life Safety Board and that all proposed regulations would have to go through them for review and approval prior to submittal to OAL or Building Standards.

ACTION ITEM: Patty McKinnon will furnish the membership with the names and contacts representing the Fire and Life Safety Board.

Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2004
Special Effects Fireworks Advisory Committee
Page 3

- Chief Richwine advised the committee membership that all terms for appointment to this committee will expire December 31, 2004.

ACTION ITEM: If interested in reappointment to this Committee, members are to submit a letter of interest to Chief Grijalva.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Cal OSHA Memorandum of Understanding – a lengthy discussion took place regarding the Cal OSHA MOU and the importance of it.

ACTION ITEM: Chief Richwine will contact Lynn Welch from Cal OSHA to determine who has the authority to conduct the investigations and the need to finalize the proposed MOU between Cal OSHA and SFM. The “draft” MOU will be provided to the Advisory Committee membership for comment prior to implementation.

- Pyro Exams – Chuck Hughes reported on the progress that the working group has made on the new exam for Class 3 Special Effects. He explained the process and the method used to create the test questions. The next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2004.
- Fireworks Disposal Operation – Chief Richwine reported on the progress that has been made on disposing of the fireworks that were being stored throughout the state. He spoke about whether the Disposal Solutions workgroup, that was previously formed, should continue.

ACTION ITEM: The Advisory Committee recommended that this working group be eliminated.

- AB 2401 – Chief Richwine discussed this bill and the possible ramifications it would have on industry. He indicated that SFM does not currently have the authority to levy fines in lieu of suspension or revocations and that this bill would provide us with that authority. He also stated that the enforcement would not change because of this bill.
- SB 1781 – Chief Richwine discussed this bill and the fact that it would mean development of regulations for the SFM permitting of flamethrowing devices.

ACTION ITEM: Because SFM will have to develop a permit process and regulations, a working group will be formed consisting of members of this committee. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Fireworks Forms – Patty McKinnon discussed the revised forms that are currently being finalized.

ACTION ITEM: Committee members will be provided with the forms once completed. All forms will be posted to the web site, including the Special Effects Permit. It was recommended that Al Adams make a presentation to both the North and South FPO groups regarding his program and the use of his Special Effects Permit. Patty will see if she can get him on their agendas for an upcoming meeting.

- Historical Reenactors – Chief Richwine discussed the need to review the regulations and laws that pertain to Historical Reenactors. A lengthy discussion took place regarding this issue.

ACTION ITEM: Chief Richwine will notify the Reenactors about the issue that SFM is reviewing and the possibility of issuing a permit and/or requiring licensing of their members, etc. Tassilo from ASEPO will provide a comparison of NFPA documents with Title 19, with a view toward showing why the California regulations provide the same or better level of safety with increased flexibility.

REV: November 29, 2004,13:30

VIII. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for November 10, 2004 at Warner Bros. Studios.

Meeting Adjourned...

CAROLINE FUDGE
Fireworks Program Assistant