



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

Law Enforcement/Motion Picture & Entertainment

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**MINUTES
Special Effects Fireworks
Advisory Committee
December 6, 2007
NBC Studios**

Members Present:

Al Adams, Chairperson
Marge Yarbrough, Technical Assistant
Tom Hoffman, Staff Chief
Jon Belyeu, ASEPO
Gary Brown, Pyro-Spectaculars
Wendy Holt, AMPTP
Chuck Hughes, NBC/Universal
Kevin Kelly, Disney
Dennis King, MP Associates
Don Martin, Universal Studios Hollywood
Anthony Penn, L.A. County Fire Dept.
Larry Shipp, Los Angeles City Fire Dept.
Scott Ward, Pyrotechnic Operator

Member Absent:

Cal Accord, WB Studios
Joseph Bartolotta, Fireworks & Stage FX America
Ron Bell, Burbank Fire Dept.
George Jackman, De La Mare Engineering
Randy Metz, Orange County Fire Authority
Thaine Morris, Roger George Rentals

Guests:

Jenai Marinkovic, L.A. Fire Effects
Brenda Wilcox, Trick Concepts
David Jasiewicz, Trick Concepts
Tassro Baur, De La Mare
Bill Parker, L.A. City Fire Dept.
Cesar Cano, L.A. County Fire Dept.
Jason Nuesca, L.A. County Fire Dept.

Call to Order

Deputy State Fire Marshal Al Adams, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1010 hours at NBC studios in Burbank

Roll Call:

Roll call of the advisory committee members was conducted: a quorum was present.

Introductions:

Self-introductions of committee members and guests were conducted.

Announcements:

Chairperson Adams explained the policy for sending names of alternates. Adams explained the two different fireworks committee and announced they are advisory only. Adams passed out the old SFM advisory committee policy and said until such time that an updated policy is issue by the SFM, we will follow this policy.

Chief Tom Hoffman gave a briefing on Senate Bill 839. Details of the SFM plan for implementation of SB 839 will be posted on the SFM web site.

Committee Member Brown remarked that there was no one on the committee from the rocket community and mentioned the need to reach out to them.

Old Business:

Regulation Package. Adams opened the discussion of the "unlicensed assistants" issue. After considerable discussion Captain Penn made a MOTION to send this issue back to the workgroup for further work and give final recommendations back to the committee. This workgroup was asked to come with examples and justification of why changes are need on this issue. Motion was carried unanimously. Marge Yarbrough will lead this sub-committee.

Adams opened the discussion of the "Letters of Reference" issue. Gary Brown briefed the group on the issues and after considerable discussion, a MOTION to send this back to the workgroup was made. Motion was carried unanimously. Marge Yarbrough will lead this sub-committee

Adams opens the discussion on the "exam" issue. Adams announced the written exam for special effects third class and theatrical trainee was completed and in use. After considerable discussion, Jon Belyeu made a MOTION to reconvene the exam workgroup and start reviewing and updating the exams for first, second, theatrical, and performer classes. MOTION was carried unanimously. Also during this discussion the group talked about a revamp of the testing system that includes hand on practical test. This workgroup will make recommendation on this issue. Gary Brown mentioned that the general firework committee should be included in this discussion. Al Adams will lead this sub-committee

Adams opened the discussion of "Proximate Audience" issue. Adams explained the differences and similarities between Title 19 and NFPA 1126. The discussion then shifted to a checklist that was developed by APA in a national effort to comment on the seriousness of the Rhode Island accident. This APA checklist was then taken by SFM and reviewed for a development of a checklist for the State of California and attached to Title 19 CCR. This checklist was completed and passed out for review by the committee. After further discussion a MOTION was made to have the SFM expand the checklist with Title 19 references and fill in any code gaps relative to NFPA 1126. MOTION was carried unanimously. Marge Yarbrough will lead this effort.

Adams opened discussion of the "Labeling" issue. (Too small to print, "do not hold in hand") Adams decided to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Flamethrower Regulations:

Tom Hoffman briefed the group on this issue. SFM Deputy James Parsegian has been managing this issue and has continued to do so even after the SFM reorganization. Parsegian will be invited to the next committee meeting to update the group on the status of these regulations. Tom Hoffman will oversee any complaints deal with these regulations.

New Business:

Jon Belyeu brought up the "Zone of Danger" issue. Jon would like this issue to be discussed at the next meeting. Al Adams requested before bring this issue to the group a meeting between ASEPO, AMPTP and MPAA should conducted to insure that all parties are agreeable to the issue that should be discuss.

Chuck Hughes brought up three issues that he would like to be placed on further meeting agenda. They are: "Product Testing, Classification of Dangerous Fireworks, and Import Dangerous Fireworks". Al Adams requested that Chuck prepare a short summary on this issues and send them to him prior to the next meeting and Al will distribute it to the committee members before the next meeting for discussion.

Al Adams brought up "Licensee Disqualification" issue. Should SFM licensee be required to provide proof of ATF license before getting a SFM license? This issue shall be discussed at the next meeting.

Chuck Hughes requested that the SFM prepare some type of safety bulletin to go out to all licensees, when there is a pyrotechnic accident. Tom Hoffman will look into this request.

Kevin Kelly requested the committee discuss the possibility of adding a new type of pyrotechnic license for basic commercial and theatrical operations where the operations are limited in the activity.

**The next meeting will be on March 6, 2008 @ NBC Burbank Studios.
Meeting Adjourned @ 1430 hrs.**