



MINUTES

SAFE & SANE FIREWORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: March 21, 2002

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Carmack, Chair, Division Chief Fire Engineering Division
Ben Ho, SFM Fireworks Program Coordinator
Lisa Dowdy, Staff/Program Assistant
Linda Hass, Big Bear Fireworks
Dennis Revell, Revell Communications
Joe Elkins, Blockbuster Fireworks

CALL TO ORDER

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

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bill Carmack introduced himself as the new Division Chief of Fire Engineering and chairperson of the new Safe & Sane Fireworks Advisory Committee. Bill explained that he would be breaking up the larger Fireworks Advisory Committee into three smaller committees that are specifically directed towards each industry. There will be an advisory group set up for the Safe & Sane Fireworks industry, the special effects industry and the rocket industry. Bill explained that he will be sending out letters removing members from the large committee and requested that those interested in being a member of the new committee send in a letter of interest. Bill also explained that he would be drafting a mission statement for the new committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ben discussed the Safe & Sane fireworks regulations and explained that he was disappointed to have only received two comments back from the committee with regards to this issue. Ben explained that he would be comparing and incorporating the proposed regulatory language with the current language in Barclays, once completed it will be sent to the regulations unit and onto OAL for approval and adoption. Dennis requested that hearing be set after July 4th. There was discussion about raising the Retail Fireworks License fee to \$75.00 - \$100.00 to fund an illegal fireworks task force. Phantom Fireworks is currently negotiating with Jim Mattesich to write the justification for the Safe & Sane Fireworks regulations and the Retail Fireworks fee increase. Bill requested a letter of support from each company (American Promotional, Phantom Fireworks and Blockbuster Fireworks) requesting the fee increase and stating that those monies be dedicated to illegal fireworks enforcement.
2. Ben discussed the regulations concerning the classification of Safe & Sane fireworks and explained that the regulations became effective January 28, 2002. Ben handed out a new classification form and explained that the form, a chemical analysis, the EX number and the \$50.00 fee must accompany each device when submitted for testing. He also explained that each devices must be accompanied by its label, attached or unattached to the device. Ben reminded everyone that the cutoff for new devices this year is May 1, 2002.
3. Bill agreed to allocate \$45,000 for the fireworks school program this year, this program is organized by Revell Communications. The money will be used for the printing of brochures, posters and handouts.
4. Tony discussed his research on the purchase of a fireworks disposal trailer. He explained that he had found a trailer made in Oregon and that the same trailer was currently being used by other fire jurisdictions. The trailer uses propane and will consume approximately 50 lbs at a time, with each disposal taking about 30 minutes. Tony is currently talking with the Department of Toxic Substance with regards to waste issues. The approximate cost for each trailer is \$8,000 and it was discussed having two trailers one for North and one for South. Dennis discussed a unit that he had found that has a much larger capacity and runs around \$16,000 - \$27,000. Dennis suggested that the industry might be willing to fund the purchase of the trailer(s), he was asked to send us a proposal for further review by Bill and Chief Tennant.

OPEN FORUM:

1. Dennis discussed the school program and that he will be sending over two letters for Chief Tennant's signature. One letter is thanking the school for their continued support and the other letter asks them to participate in the program. Dennis also explained that

some fire jurisdictions are singling out certain fireworks devices in their cities. He asked that if approached by local jurisdictions if the State Fire Marshal's office would provide fire authorities with the background and performance information of such devices. He also suggested that devices be re-tested when the supporting data indicates a performance problem. Bill explained that CFIRS is currently changing over to NFIRS and that because of the change over no fireworks report would be published for the 2002 fireworks season.

NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting was set for August 7, 2002 at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento, CA.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.