



## MINUTES

### SAFE & SANE FIREWORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: April 29, 2003

Meeting Location: 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, Staff/Program Assistant  
Linda Hass, Big Bear Fireworks  
Joe Elkins, Blockbuster Fireworks  
Don Petro, An American Tradition  
Cathy Castilone, American Promotional (for Tad Trout)

**Guests:**

Rodney Slaughter, SFM Code Development  
Dan Najera, SFM Administration  
Randy Roxson, SFM Administration  
Tony Guevara, SFM Fire Engineering Division  
Marc Yepez, SFM Fire Engineering Division  
Dennis Revell, Revell Communications

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mike 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.

### **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 committee structure is working and the consensus is that the committees will remain separate as identified above.

### **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.

**Action Item:** Mike Richwine will forward the current "Interested Parties" list to Division Chief Krippner for use when there are proposed changes in regulations. The newly established list will be maintained by the Fireworks Program Assistant for use in distribution of notices pertaining to meetings, agendas and minutes.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the March 21, 2002 meeting minutes was made by Linda Hass and seconded by Joe Elkins. The meeting minutes were approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Regulation Overview Presentation**

Rodney Slaughter from the Code Development Division presented a process overview of regulation changes and adoption. He provided the committee with websites that explain such processes in further detail. The Office of Administrative Law, [www.oal.ca.gov](http://www.oal.ca.gov) and the California Building Standards Commission, [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov).

### **2. Safe & Sane Regulations**

Dennis Revell presented a regulation package that has been a cooperative effort between the fireworks industry and the State Fire Marshal's office. This regulation package addresses the inadequacies in the current fireworks regulations with regards to testing procedures and firework performance and classification standards. These new regulations will provide consistency between state regulations and national standards. The fee increase for Retail Fireworks licenses is not addressed in the current documentation but would be added upon approval by the committee. Dennis explained that American Promotional would be acquiring the costs of Mr. Mattesich's services for regulation language and the justification for change. Dennis also explained that he would like to move forward with the regulation change immediately after July 4, 2003. **Action Item:** The proposed regulations package will be submitted to the SFM Regulation's Unit after July 4, 2003.

### **3. 2003 School Program**

Dennis Revell explained that this program has been in place since 1990. In conjunction with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, American Promotional has supplied interested school districts with educational materials relating to Safe & Sane fireworks and illegal fireworks. Dennis explained that brochures were reprinted last year and there are enough for the 2003 distribution, however posters were reprinted at a cost of \$1, 874 and reimbursement was requested for such costs. Mr. Revell also recommended that the balance of state funds allotted for fireworks education be spent in the cities of Stanton (Orange County) and Bellflower (L.A. County) in pilot "Zero Tolerance Programs" to help with the costs of firework control. Chairman Richwine requested a special meeting to work out the details and gather more information about the program.

**Action Item:** Chairman Richwine will make contact with individuals to assist in making a determination as to the recommended costs associated with this project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Injury Reporting Data**

Gini Krippner explained that the Office of the State Fire Marshal switched from the traditional CFIRS reporting system to the national standard NFIRS. The conversion was effective January 1, 2003. Ms. Krippner asked for items the committee would like to see in their data collection. Some suggestions were the types of device and whether the device was a classified or illegal item.

### **2. Fireworks Shipment Approval**

Al Adams explained that several ports in California have been requiring a signed clearance form for fireworks being shipped into the state. It was recommended that effective July 1, 2003 this procedure would be terminated and that all licensed Importer/Exporters and Wholesalers will be responsible for providing such information to the Fireworks Program directly. The item was held over for further discussion and more information will be presented at the next committee meeting.

### **3. Retail Fireworks License Fee Change**

Dennis Revell explained that the Retail Fireworks license fee has never been increased and suggested raising the fee from \$50.00 to \$100. Cathy Castilone inquired as to whether the increased revenue could be earmarked for a specific purpose, however Chairman Richwine explained that the office has had increased operating costs over the years and that the additional revenue would need to be used to offset those costs. Chairman Richwine asked for a motion to increase the Retail License fee to \$100 with a yet to be determined amount of money allotted to additional investigative enforcement in the fireworks program. A motion was made and passed.

**Action Item:** A proposed regulation change will be submitted increasing the Retail Fireworks License fee from \$50.00 to \$100.00.

### **4. NFPA 1126**

Chief Tennant has requested that the State Fire Marshal's advisory committees develop and adopt language from NFPA 1126 for incorporation into Title 19 CCR 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. A workgroup was formed during the Special Effects Advisory committee meeting on April 30, 2003. 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.

#### 5. Citation Program

Tony Guevara explained that deputies within the State Fire Marshal's office have statutory authority to issue misdemeanor citations and that the office is currently working on training State Fire Marshal staff and implementing the program.

**Pat Sanchez**  
**SFM Fire Engineering**  
**P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460**  
**[Patricia.Sanchez@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Sanchez@fire.ca.gov)**  
**(916) 445-8415**