



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

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## ATTACHMENT 4

**Date:** November 19, 2015

**To:** State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Jeff Schwartz, Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal/Investigator.  
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Program Coordinator

### **SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Automatic Extinguishing Systems Certified Sprinkler Fitters Regulation Update

### **Recommended Actions:**

No action required; information only. The purpose of this information is to update the Board on Program activities, goals, and direction.

### **Background Information:**

In 2013 Assembly Bill 433 (Gordon), signed into law by Governor Brown, gave the State Fire Marshal (SFM) the authority, under Health and Safety Code Section 13110, to propose, adopt, and administer the regulations that she deems necessary in order to ensure fire safety in buildings and structures. The SFM Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) Advisory Committee was requested to determine if there is a need for a certification program for the installation and maintenance of fire suppression systems in California. In September 2014, the SFM AES Advisory Committee determined there was a need for a Certification Program for the installation and maintenance of fire suppression systems in California and requested a workgroup be formed to create the necessary regulations.

The AES Certification Regulations workgroup was formed in January 2015. The group met from February to June 2015, developed and proposed regulations to the SFM AES Advisory Committee. The SFM AES Advisory Committee discussed, reviewed, and finalized the proposed regulations at the July 22, 2015 meeting and submitted them to the SFM for consideration.

The OSFM expects this program will improve the reliability of water-based fire protection systems by certifying and registering any person who installs, alters, or repairs these systems. This program will be an annual certification, and it will be based on the fiscal, not calendar year.

### **Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

#### **I. Regulations**

- The regulation package is currently with the executive staff of the OSFM for review and approval.
- Once approved, the start of the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) Process and 45-day comment period will begin by the first part of November 2015. We are looking at completion in 4-6 months, with an effective date of July 1, 2016.

- Highlights include:
  - Staffing increases for the additional work within this program.
  - Requires examinations for any task or tasks within the scope of Certification regulations.
  - Historical Recognition Period is for those individuals who meet the requirements of the regulations, but does not require an exam for the first 6 months from the effective date of the regulations.
  - Implementation Period is 18 months from the effective date of the regulations.
    - One (1) certified individual will be required on each job site at one year from effective date of the regulations.
    - All individuals are required to be certified or registered on each job site after the 18 months.
  - Require twenty-four units of Continuing Education every three years.
  - The Office of the State Fire Marshal will approve all continuing education units prior to the training.

**II. Certification and Registration:**

Certification and Registration Projection	FY15/16	FY16/17
C-16 Certified	500	1000
Journeymen Certified	2000	2000
Apprenticeship Registration	1000	1000
Trainee Registration		500