



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
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## WILDFIRE PROTECTION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION “CBC CHAPTER 7A” TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES – AUGUST 11, 2016

### Attendees:

David Bueche  
Bill Hendricks  
Andrew Henning  
Marcelo Hirschler  
Charles Jourdain  
Kyle Krause  
Don Oaks  
Ryan Masterson  
Grant Muller  
David Tyree  
John Westfall  
John Woestman  
Ethan Foote

### Via Phone:

Kathy Butler  
Jose Elias  
Dwight Good  
Edith Hannigan  
Joseph Hetzel  
Chad Moxley  
Steve Quarles  
Kevin Reinertson

### AGENDA TOPICS

#### **1. Welcome**

Andrew Henning called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members participating via teleconference were asked to email their contact information to Andrew Henning.

#### **2. Meeting Objective**

Andrew Henning went over the details of the rulemaking cycle. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) will be submitting their rulemaking package to the Building Standards Commission this December for the 2016 intervening code adoption cycle, which goes into effect July 2018. The task force has a critical deadline to finalize their report by the next meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Anything that is not finalized, does not have group consensus, or have not been discussed will not be considered by OSFM to be moved into the intervening rulemaking adoption cycle and will be delayed until the 2019 California Building Standards.

This Task Force may go dormant from September to December, but will start back up in January for Phase II. Phase I of this Task Force is to take care of the easier items and save the bigger ticket items for Phase II, which will be delayed to the 2019 codes.

#### **3. Subgroup Updates**

*Garage Doors*

Kyle Krause and John Westfall presented a PowerPoint on their findings of garage door problems, what is available to improve the performance of garage doors, and code change proposals to be considered by the group. Some background information on garage doors in regards to resources used, garage door styles, garage door material, and garage door features were presented. The subgroup came up with three possible suggestions.

The first suggestion is to require permits for replacement doors in fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ) or a separate fire code permit for new wildland urban interface (WUI) prescriptions in FHSZs. A suggested code change for R337/7A would be to add in “exterior wildfire exposure in FHSZs” as a consideration for permit issuance. This would require a permit for new constructions or permit for remodel or reconstruction for garage doors.

The second suggestion is for workmanship in regards to the tightness and how close the tolerance is for garage door installations. An important consideration here is the numerous different installation types that are possible. Some installations will be difficult to add a finish, a trim, or stripping. The code for the exterior door section, R337.9.4/708A.4 may require an update to take in the consideration about workmanship, about the tolerance, and the hazards in a FHSZ.

The subgroup indicated that at the Task Force code level, suggestions one and two may not be the proper place for discussion.

Suggestion 3 will propose new language to the residential and building code to require weather-stripping that would help in preventing the passage of embers blowing into a garage and starting a fire. Marcelo Hirschler indicated the need to consider the fire performance of the weather stripping material. Even though some types of material may be more durable than others and should be used, the proposal should be a prescription of the fire stripping performance, not the prescription of material to be used. Steve Quarles stated that at a lab experiment conducted, the only time a fire ignited a garage door was when embers accumulated at the joint between the door and the jam. It was the ignition of the weather stripping material that resulted in fire penetrating into the occupied part of the test building. Joseph Hetzel requested involvement in the Task Force and can provide expertise to address concerns of workmanship, jam construction, and fire performance of weather seals. Andrew Henning will send a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to the Task Force. Andrew Henning stated that there probably is not enough time to develop proposals for suggestions one and two, but parts of suggestion three may be doable for this intervening code cycle.

Joseph Hetzel discussed proposed language he sent in for section 708A.3, exterior doors. The word “or” in subsection 1 was interpreted as a typo and proposed to be removed. Subsection 2.2 added “interior flat panels” since they are commonly used with garage doors but is not included in the language. A new subsection 3 was added to provide a prescriptive requirement to have doors constructed with an insulated core with wood facings and exterior cladding having a minimum total combined thickness of 5/8 inches. Kyle Krause stated that “or” in subsection 1 is not an editorial error; it provides options and a deletion would be a significant change. Marcelo Hirschler stated that the subsection 3 proposal should have a fire resistance rating. Joseph Hetzel indicated that this proposal may need to be looked at in two phases. Phase one would be to clean up the language so that it correctly captures the intent. Second, the proposed subsection 3 and addition of “interior flat panels” to subsection 2 should be studied and discussed during the next code cycle. This topic will be moved back to the subgroup for further discussion and work.

Anyone who wants to be a part of the garage doors subgroup should contact Kyle Krause.

### *Accessory Buildings and Miscellaneous Structures*

Ethan Foote proposed his revision of Section 710A on exterior structures. The goal is to revise the existing chapter to make it more understandable and useful but not increase the requirements, except for the attached arbors and trellises. Don Oaks voiced his concern and opposition to section 710A3.1.1 in regards to roofing without assembly requirements. The Task Force reviewed and provided editorial changes to the proposed language. Kevin Reinertson stated that the proposed language is more restrictive than intended and would push people away from getting a permit. He will come up with some language to share with the subgroup. Ethan Foote explained that at the last meeting, the group wanted to have some sort of meaningful requirement in the code instead of leaving it all up to the local fire official.

Anyone who wants to be a part of this subgroup should contact Ethan Foote.

### *Skylights*

Don Oaks provided an update on Skylights subgroup. Skylights are added to various sections of 708A and R337.8 due to the proven vulnerability of roofs. A Task Force member asked if it would be better to put skylights in a section about roofing and roof covering, rather than with the glass and windows section. Marcelo Hirschler responded that a roof and a skylight would be evaluated separately. Since this is a non-controversial change, Andrew Henning stated that the rationale should just be a one paragraph narrative of why skylights are added. There should also be a recommendation that this item continue to be discussed in Phase II to address the roof windows or operable skylights.

### *Reference Standards*

Marcelo Hirschler provided an update on the Reference Standards subgroup. Andrew Henning warned the Task Force about replacing standards. Legacy SFM standards need to be kept; otherwise, current listed manufacturers would have to get relisted to ASTM standards. A phase out approach for the legacy standard may be appropriate later. Andrew Henning stated that any sections not proposed for change do not need to be included in the report. The subgroup will reinsert the SFM standard and decide the formatting of the standards that is the cleanest and follows the ICC format the best.

## **4. Draft Report**

A template draft report was sent to the Task Force after the previous meeting. Pictures will need to be on the cover page. The pictures can be of houses destroyed by wildfire, 7A houses, fire testing, etc. Anyone with pictures should forward it to the editor. Andrew Henning will include in the acknowledgements any members who have attended a majority of the meetings. A scope was not developed at the initial commencement of the Task Force, but will need to be developed and inserted into the report. Each subgroup will provide a detailed narrative for the scope. If the report is longer than six pages, an executive summary should be prepared. A rationale should be added after each code change proposal. If any item needs to continue on to Phase II, provide a statement in the

rationale to recommend more discussion and work. The conclusion at the end will consist of recommendations from each of the subgroups and recommendation for the Task Force to remain dormant until ready to move forward with Phase II.

Wordsmithing should be done in the subgroups. Use the standard font, Verdana, size 12.

Don Oaks volunteers to be the editor for the report.

## **5. Action Items**

Andrew Henning will send out the draft report after the meeting. Subgroup leads will send their completed items to Don Oaks by August 29<sup>th</sup>. Don Oaks will send the consolidated report to Andrew Henning on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Andrew Henning will send the consolidated report to the entire Task Force on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Ethan Foote will write the scope about what the four groups did. Don Oaks will develop the conclusion.