

Hot Topic

CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has recently formed a Task Force to provide information and suggested recommendations to the State Fire Marshal on all water supply issues related to residential fire sprinkler systems and recommend strategies for solutions. This task force is a subject specific focused group that will be meeting over the next four (4) to six (6) months.

The Task Force known as the *California State Fire Marshal Residential Fire Sprinkler/Water Supply Task Force* held its first meeting on October 9th in Sacramento. At this meeting, four goals were identified by the group: (1) Identify issues related to residential fire sprinklers and water supply. (2) Recommend solutions. (3) Identify applicable statutes/regulation and conflicts. And (4) Identify cost offsets/incentives.

The scope, as it relates to this task force, encompasses residential fire sprinklers and water supply in new residential construction. For the purpose of this project, residential construction shall include detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses not more than three stories above-grade in height with a separate means of egress. (Note: This definition comes from the International Residential Code.)

The task force is co-chaired by Ernie Paez, Division Chief, (OSFM) and Dennis Mathisen, Division Chief, Roseville Fire Department. The following agencies have been asked to participate in the task force:

- American Water Works Association (California/Nevada Section)
- California Building Industry Association
- California Building Officials Association
- California Department of Public Health
- California Fire Chiefs, Fire Prevention Officers
- California Fire Districts Association
- California Housing and Community Development
- City of Roseville Water Utility
- Desert Water Agency
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- League of California Cities
- Los Angeles City Water
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- Northern California Water Association
- Rural Counties Association
- Southern California Water Utilities Association

Please check the OSFM website for updates on the progress of the Task Force and meeting minutes.