



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

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**Smoke Alarm Task Force
Office of the State Fire Marshal**
1131 S Street, Sacramento
Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NOTES

Attendees:

Ruben Grijalva (Co-Chair)
Vickie Sakamoto (Co-Chair)
Ray Bizal
Kevin Cimini
Shane Clary
Tom Fabian
Howard Hopper
Gene Gant
Wendy Gifford
Ray Iverson
Bob Latz
Jay Levy
Jessica Power
Larry Ratzlaff
Richard Renfro
Richard Roberts
Gordon Simpkinson
Doug Williams

Via Phone:

Jay Fleming
Ken Quick
Tom McNelis
Randy Sekany

Guests:

Dean Dennis

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**
2. **Review/Approve March 28, 2011 Notes**
 - Ken Quick needs to be added to the Attendees from the March 28, 2011, meeting.
 - Notes were approved by all.

PRESENTER

R. Grijalva/V. Sakamoto
R. Grijalva/V. Sakamoto

3. Presentation - [A Local Fire Marshal Perspective](#)

- Click on title to see presentation

G. Simpkinson

Final points:

- The hush feature was never vetted scientifically, and is not a proven approach to preventing ionization smoke alarms near cooking appliances being disabled by consumers.
- We need to educate the public.
- We need better data.
- The 10 year battery may be an improvement.
- Replace smoke alarms over 10 years old at transfer of title.
- Would like to see something tangible come from this and become visible in terms of improvements to the State smoke alarm requirements.

4. Presentation - [Smoke Alarms: A Critical Look](#)

- Click on title to see presentation

D. Dennis

Final points:

- Ionization alarms may be too limited and may be great at detecting fast flaming fires. Research out there shows a slower response rate in a smoldering fire and negative egress times.
- We can never control human nature, i.e. pamphlet directions, placement of smoke alarms.
- Look at technologies with the fewest amount of problems, respond to the most amount of fires (broadest spectrum of fires), get disabled the least amount of times and provide the most protection.
- Would rather have 90% photoelectric than 90% Ionization in the U.S.
- Would like to see a 10 year battery recommendation.

5. Presentation –

[Ion vs. Photo: Is There a Qualitative Difference for Life Safety?](#)

J. Fleming

- Click on title to see presentation

Final Point:

- It seems reasonable that you could save about nine hundred lives a year by switching to photoelectric alarms.

6. Sub-Group Updates/Revisions to Working Drafts:

- Human Behaviors and Nuisance Alarm groups stated that they took the Straw Man report and plugged in their information. They would like the task force accept this as a starting point for discussion.
- The group agreed to accept B1 version as the working draft and to be a starting point for discussion.
- Discussion on changes began with “Scope”.
- Ruben suggested, as a time saver, to read over the document tonight and come back tomorrow with wording changes.

Thursday, April 21, 2011, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ruben Grijalva (Co-Chair)
Ray Bizal
Kevin Cimini
Shane Clary
Tom Fabian
Howard Hopper
Gene Gant
Wendy Gifford
Bob Latz
Jay Levy
Jessica Power
Larry Ratzlaff
Richard Roberts
Gordon Simpkinson
Doug Williams

Via Phone:

Jay Fleming
Ken Quick
Tom McNelis
Jim Palisi
Randy Sekany

AGENDA TOPICS

PRESENTER

1. Welcome and Roll Call

R. Grijalva

2. Continue Revisions to Working Draft

Changes and comments to sections; Scope thru Human Factors were discussed and approved by majority vote.

Note

- A new Sub-Committee, to look at the section; Limitations of Smoke Sensing Technologies, was created where the focus should to be on escape times.
- The group will comeback next meeting with some suggested language for this section.
- Volunteers were as follows:
Chairperson: Richard Roberts
Committee members: H. Hopper, W. Gifford, R.Iverson, T.Fabian, T.McNelis, and G.Simpkinson.

Miscellaneous Task

- The next meeting will be extended by one day. Schedule as follows:
Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 9:30-5:00 & Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 8:30-3:00.