



**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  
Culver City, City Hall  
9770 Culver Boulevard, Culver City  
February 16 & 17, 2011**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Ruben Grijalva (Co-Chair)  
Vickie Sakamoto (Co-Chair)  
John Andres  
Ray Bizal  
Shane Clary  
Tom Fabian  
Gene Gantt  
Wendy Gifford  
Ray Iverson  
Ben Ho  
Howard Hopper  
Scott Lang  
Ken Quick  
Larry Ratzlaff

Richard Roberts  
Tom Sri  
Morgana Yahnke

**Via Phone:**

Kevin Cimini  
Jay Fleming  
Jay Levy  
Marc McGinn  
Tom McNelis  
Sarah Owen  
Jim Palisi  
Kevin Reinertson  
Gordon Simpkinson  
Doug Williams

**AGENDA TOPICS**

- 1. Welcome and Roll Call**
- 2. Review/Approve January 13, 2011 Meeting Notes**  
Notes approved by all
- 3. “CA codes/standards” vs. National (ICC)**  
(To view click on document title below)
  - [DRAFT 2009 International Residential Code](#)
  - [2010 California Residential Code](#)

**PRESENTER**

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

At the January 13 meeting the group asked that the State Fire Marshal’s Office to provide the current codes relating to smoke alarms.

The following points were taken from group discussion:

- California's substantial changes are:
  - The amendments to R314 were made to align with existing CA laws, they are R314.1 – R314.6.3. We addressed the differences that the model code had regarding power sources for existing buildings undergoing renovation. We did not change anything in regard to the device it self.
  - Handout "2010 California Residential Code" shows California's amendments
- Is it possible to get a complete list of all regulations that deal with smoke alarms? IRC covers single family homes and there is other occupancies we need to look at; does HCD have something? Is there an agency that has a regulation for when a certain type of home is sold or transferred that requires inspections to insure that the smoke alarms are operational?
- It was suggested that we add NFPA 72 and any amendments to NFPA 72, and highlight the appropriate sections that might regulate smoke alarms; especially amendments to NFPA 72 regulations from California.
- The State (California) now adopts the current 2010 NFPA 72 edition.
- The current National, California and NFPA 72 codes appear to be device neutral. Exceptions to the statement above are that NFPA 72 list some distance requirement from cooking appliances and NFPA 72 does not require hush for photoelectric.

#### Note

- The 2009 International Residential Code handout is unchanged by California.
- Words in italics in the 2009 International Residential Code are words that have been defined. Please disregard the blue and green.
- The italicized sections in the 2010 California Residential Code are the State's amendments to the model code.

#### 4. Presentation – [Iophic Smoke Detection Technology](#)

W. Gifford

- Click on title to see presentation
- To view product <http://smokealarms.com/>

#### 5. Documents to be considered

Task Force approved documents, studies, reports, reference materials, etc. can be found at:  
[http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/firelifesafety/firelifesafety\\_smokealarmtaskforce.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/firelifesafety/firelifesafety_smokealarmtaskforce.php)

#### 6. Presentation – [Multi Sensor Alarms](#)

L. Ratzlaff/J. Andres

- Click on title to see presentation

#### 7. Presentation – [Multi-Criteria Smoke Detection](#)

S. Lang

- Click on title to see presentation

#### 8. Goals and Key Issues

R. Grijalva

Continued on February 17, Item 2

#### Miscellaneous Task

- Marc, Jay and Gordon to present at April meeting on what they did in their jurisdiction, were statistics given to your local government
- Marc and Gordon were asked if they could email staff reports and Ordinances to Vickie
- Doug Williams will provide Sebastopol Ordinance

- Ray Bizal will provide City of Orange Ordinance.
- Get letter signed by Chief Hoover requesting the complete 2008 Randomized Injury Prevention... Report for the task force
- Ruben Grijalva will speak with Los Angeles Fire Department about the 1981 LAFD Training Bulletin and their 1979 paper to CalChiefs and if they still support them. Also, if they could provide us with a copy.
- IAFC 2007 position paper, this would be posted in the place of the IAFC 1980 Document we currently have.
- Ken Quick will check with Society of Fire Protection Engineers about the 1979 Article regarding CalChiefs document. (Already contacted SFPE President, he is looking into it)
- Sherry Habon will request Final minutes of the Boston MA. October 7, 2010 Fire Prevention Meeting (we currently have a DRAFT copy)

**Thursday, February 17, 2011, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Vickie Sakamoto (Co-Chair)  
 Ray Bizal  
 Shane Clary  
 Tom Fabian  
 Gene Gantt  
 Wendy Gifford  
 Ben Ho  
 Howard Hopper  
 Jay Levy  
 Ken Quick  
 Larry Ratzlaff  
 Richard Roberts  
 Morgana Yahnke

**Via Phone:**

Ruben Grijalva (Co-Chair)  
 Kevin Cimini  
 Dan Gottuk  
 Ray Iverson  
 Marc McGinn  
 Tom McNelis  
 Jim Palisi  
 Kevin Reinertson  
 Gordon Simpkinson  
 Doug Williams

**AGENDA TOPICS**

**PRESENTER**

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. <b>Welcome and Roll Call</b>  | <b>V. Sakamoto</b> |
| 2. <b>Goals and Key Issues (continued)</b><br>With group approval, this agenda item moved to after presentation by Mr. Gottuk  | <b>V. Sakamoto</b> |
| 3. <b>Presentation – <a href="#">Smoke Alarm Response and Tenability</a></b><br>- Click on title to see presentation   | <b>D. Gottuk</b>   |
| 2. <b>Goals and Key Issues (continued)</b><br>See Key Issues List with notes, Attachment 1<br>Key Issues List (Revised 2/17/11) Attachment 2<br>Sub-Groups List, Attachment 3<br>Goals (no changes) Attachment 4 | <b>V. Sakamoto</b> |

**4. Draft Template for Task Force Report**

After review and group discussion changes were made to template  
Revised template to be email to Task Force members

**H. Hopper**

**5. Presentation – [UL 217, 268 and NFPA 72](#)**

**[UL New vs. Old Room Fire Video](#)**

- Click on title to see presentation or Video

**T. Fabian**

## Smoke Alarm Task Force Key Issues

**NOTE – Dates noted are when item was discussed; also changes and comments are in italics**

- **Define “Nuisance Alarms” 2/16/11**
  - Relative to cooking
  - Relative to other “nuisance” source

*Sub-group formed, see Sub-group Members List (attachment 2)*

- **New Technologies 2/17/11**  
Remove, covered under Current Technologies in report template
- **Statistics (Death, injuries, property) 2/16/11**
  - Sleeping vs. Awake
  - Trends
  - Effectiveness of smoke alarms

*Sub-group formed, see Sub-group Members List (attachment 2)*

- **Delayed Detection – based on technology response 2/17/11**  
*Moved to new Key Issue bullet Alarm Performance*
- **Residential sprinkler impact on smoke alarms 2/17/11**  
***Group decision to remove from Key Issues***  
*Not relevant under the Task Force scope*
- **Detection response times 2/17/11**  
*Moved to new Key Issue bullet Alarm Performance*
- **Human factors 2/16/11**
  - Maintenance
  - Battery replacement
  - Alarm silencing
  - Effect of product cost on acceptance and utilization of different technology
  - *Disabling Alarm (Added 2/16/11)*

*Sub-group formed, see Sub-group Members List (attachment 2)*

- **Adequate # of alarms / placement 2/17/11**  
*Placement is in the residential code and Building Code, maybe it should be in the electrical Code.*

*Sub-group formed, see Sub-group Members List (attachment 2)*

- **Changes to industry standard re: Nuisance Alarms 2/17/11**  
*Remove from Key Issues and move to Related Standards in the Report template*

- **Changes to UL 217 and 268 and NFPA 72 2/17/11**  
*Remove from Key Issues and move to Related Standards in the Report template*
- **ASET vs. RSET (Available Safe Egress Time vs. Required Safe Egress Time) 2/17/11**  
*- Moved to new Key Issue bullet Alarm Performance*
- **Specific vs. Non-specific fire types 2/17/11**  
*After discussion leave as its own key issue*
- **Recalls by Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) re: Smoke alarms relative to detection issues 2/17/11**  
*Group voted to remove from key issues*
- **Public education proper use (use and maintenance) 2/17/11**  
*Leave as its own key issue*
- **Alarm Performance 2/17/11**
  - *Delayed Detection – based on technology response*
  - *Detection response times*
  - *ASET vs. RSET (Available Safe Egress Time vs. Required Safe Egress Time)*

**Smoke Alarm Task Force  
Key Issues**

Revised February 17, 2011

- **Define “Nuisance Alarms”**
  - Relative to cooking
  - Relative to other “nuisance” source
  
- **Statistics (Death, injuries, property)**
  - Sleeping vs. Awake
  - Trends
  - Effectiveness of smoke alarms
  
- **Human factors**
  - Maintenance
  - Battery replacement
  - Alarm silencing
  - Effect of product cost on acceptance and utilization of different technology
  - Disabling Alarm
  
- **Adequate # of alarms / placement**
  
- **Specific vs. Non-specific fire types**
  
- **Public education proper use (use and maintenance)**
  
- **Alarm performance**
  - Delayed Detection – based on technology response
  - Detection response times
  - ASET vs. RSET (Available Safe Egress Time vs. Required Safe Egress Time)

**Smoke Alarm Task Force  
Sub-Groups**

<b>KEY ISSUES SUB-GROUPS</b>	
<b>Define "Nuisance Alarms"</b>	<b>Statistics and Human Factors</b>
Gene Gantt Wendy Gifford Jim Palisi Larry Ratzlaff Richard Roberts	Ray Bizal Jay Fleming Wendy Gifford Howard Hopper Jessica Power Gordon Simpkinson Tom Sri
<b>Adequate # of Alarms / Placement</b>	
Bob Latz Ken Quick Jim Palisi Richard Renfro Morgana Yahnke	

<b>DRAFT REPORT SUB-GROUPS</b>	
<b>The Importance of Smoke Alarm</b>	<b>Smoke Alarm Technologies</b>
Ray Bizal Jay Fleming Richard Roberts Morgana Yahnke	Shane Clary Ray Iverson Jay Levy
<b>Current State Regulations</b>	<b>Related Standard &amp; Code Considerations</b>
Kevin Cimini John Guhl Ben Ho Kevin Reinertson Vickie Sakamoto	Tom Fabian Wendy Gifford Larry Ratzlaff Richard Roberts

## **Smoke Alarm Task Force Goals**

- Consensus/Majority - What is consensus 75%?
- “Identify Facts”
- Minority Report? – Hopefully won’t need one
- Look at all data – condense to relevant with references (Foot notes)
- Studies used based on what is used to day
- US Safety Standards
- Look at full reports (not bits and pieces)
- Look at performance, maintenance, installation etc.
- Location / placement (Nuisance alarms)
- Look at UL 217 and 268
- Multi Criteria Detection/Photo Electric/Ion – Does it work or have limitations?
- Underlying logic
- Scoping - Write a Statement
- Definitions – ‘Nuisance’ etc
- Legal issues – Technical
- smoke alarm standards
- Limitations on future technology?
- Anticipate completion of the task force activities by June 1, 2011.