



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Task Force**  
**MINUTES**  
***Monday, April 6, 2009***

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Darren Drake, NorCal Fire Prevention Officers (Co-chair)  
Ernie Paez, CAL FIRE, OSFM (Co-chair)  
Jim Bollier, Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers  
Todd Emery, American Fire Sprinkler Association  
Steve Hart, Consultant  
Richard Hinrichs, California Department of Public Health  
David Hoover, Design Professional  
Clifford Hunter, Fire Districts Association  
Bruce Lecair, SoCal Fire Prevention Officers  
Steve Leyton, Design Professional  
Philip Raya, National Fire Sprinkler Association  
Bob Raymer, California Building Industry Association  
Kevin Scott, International Code Council\*  
Scott Seegmiller, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California  
Mike Stewart, Sacramento Metro Fire Department  
Byron Weisz, American Fire Sprinkler Association  
Morgana Yahnke, Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Phil Alves, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California  
Ray Bizal, National Fire Protection Association  
Laura Blaul, SoCal Fire Prevention Officers  
Heather Collins, California Department of Public Health  
Doug Hensel, Housing & Community Development  
Stephen Kiefer, California Building Officials  
Tom McKinnon, American Fire Sprinkler Association  
Mark Peterson, National Fire Sprinkler Association  
Billie Tribbett, Manufactured Housing Institute  
Representative, League of California Cities

**STAFF:**

Judy Bankert, CAL FIRE, OSFM, Staff Support  
Steve Guarino, CAL FIRE, OSFM, Fire & Life Safety  
Ben Ho, CAL FIRE, OSFM, Fire Engineering  
Cindy Moore, CAL FIRE, OSFM, Fire & Life Safety\*  
Michelle Nachtmann, CAL FIRE OSFM, Fire & Life Safety\*  
James Parsegian, CAL FIRE, OSFM, Fire Engineering  
Kevin Reinertson, CAL FIRE, OSFM, Code Development  
Vickie Sakamoto, CAL FIRE, OSFM, Fire & Life Safety

**GUESTS:**

Jerry Howell, Lombard (IL) Fire Department\*  
Robert Soehner, Western States Fire Protection  
Paul Valentine, Mount Prospect (IL) Fire Department\*

\*via telephone conference call

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting began at 10:03 a.m., and self introductions were made by all present.

Assistant State Fire Marshal, Tonya Hoover, addressed the group and thanked all the members for being part of this very important task force. She told the group they were a model to the rest of the country watching what this group says and does. Even though the group is operating within a short time frame, she believes they have the expertise and skills to get the job done.

~~Bob Raymer said the California Building Industry Association supports the residential fire sprinkler mandate and wants to help ease the transition which will be necessary for their implementation. See corrected~~

3/8/2010: At the request of Mr. Raymer a review of the tapes was conducted and the following correction to the minutes is being provided as a result of this review. The following is the actual transcript of Mr. Raymer's comments:

Transcribed from "Sprinklers – Phase II" April 6, 2009, tape #1.

"Bob Raymer with CBIA ...I agree with everything Tonya just said. 2009 right now projections are a total of 50,000 units which is ¼ where we should be in a normal year, not even a good year, but a normal year. And so obviously everyone has read the papers, we got problems. However, while many times we are on board with NAHB this one of those times where we are not participating in any of the national efforts to try to mess with the mandates. The mandate was approved NAHB sought to appeal that, they lost their appeal, it's a done deal. There's a sprinkler mandate that kicks in, in 2011 unless the Fire Marshal says otherwise. But, right now our focus here in CA is to do exactly what the last task force and this task force is focused on...and that is #1 let's come up with a reasonable set of specifications that most of the jurisdictions in CA can (unintelligible word), to get the water purveyors on board, understanding the systems, and do what we can to reduce the cost of complying. In that vein, we will be looking to partnering with the State Fire Marshal's Office in public relations to highlight what the State is doing to ease the transition to this new mandate in the State of CA. And so effectively we are using this as a way to showcase what the State of CA is doing to try to shepherd this into this sort of new building standards. And so to that extent, we may want to go public with things coming out of this group before they are certainly finalized, but that is just part of the public relations thing. We want to let people know that the Governor and his people in the State Fire Marshal's Office is doing a good job of getting this from point A to point B. We have no intent to do what N. Dakota, there are any number of reasons why that's a bad thing to do. Eventually that is going to catch up to them in court with construction defect litigation, whatever....let's just figure out how to get this new mandate into CA (unintelligible word) with the transition."

Kevin Reinertson spoke to the group about the 2009 Annual Code Adoption Cycle for the 2010 California Building Standards Code which will become effective January 1, 2011. He said this task force is part of the pre-rulemaking process, and we have a short time period to get our regulations developed. The bottom line is the task force needs to have its recommendations to Chief Hoover and Chief Dargan by June 1, 2009.

Bob Raymer said the code advisory committees would be meeting in July and August. He felt it would be very helpful if the Office of the State Fire Marshal prepared a informational submittal to the Building Standard Commission's Building, Fire & Other Code Advisory Committee prior to those meetings (one to two weeks ahead of time) so that the members would be informed of the direction we were moving in regard to residential fire sprinkler implementation. Kevin Reinertson agreed that would be very helpful. Kevin also mentioned that the deadline of June 1 does not necessarily mean the task force's work will be over at that point, because there may be some follow up needed further along in the code adoption process.

## **ESTABLISH TASK FORCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following goals and objectives were agreed upon after general discussion by the group. They were patterned after the format used by the Residential Fire Sprinkler/Water Supply Task Force (Phase I).

### **Purpose of Task Force**

The purpose of this task force is to provide information and suggested recommendation to the State Fire Marshal on the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems in one and two family dwellings and town homes and to recommend strategies for adoption of the 2009 International Residential Code. This is in preparation for a statewide residential fire sprinkler requirement for new construction.

### **Task Force Goals**

1. Identify installation issues related to residential fire sprinkler systems on the dwelling side of the meter.
2. Recommend solutions.
  - a. Potential amendments to sprinkler installation standards
  - b. Training and education
  - c. Review existing contractor license and certification requirements.
  - d. Explore recommendations for consistency at local level
    - i. Working Plans and Plan review process
    - ii. Permits/Fees
    - iii. Local amendments
3. Identify applicable statutes/regulation and conflicts.
  - a. Housing & Community Development
  - b. Manufactured Housing Association
  - c. Define new construction vs. Addition/Remodel
  - d. Inspection, Testing, Maintenance
4. Identify cost offsets/incentives.
  - a. Infrastructure
  - b. Building and Fire Codes
  - c. New technology
5. Identify common terminology in the installation and design of residential fire sprinkler systems.

### **Scope**

The scope, as it relates to this task force, encompasses residential fire sprinklers and water supplies in new residential construction as defined below.

### **Residential Definition**

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.)

### **Issues**

- Installation (Chair) Steve Leyton
  - Working Plans (requirements)
  - Design options
  - Environmental issues
  - Water supplies/Meter sizing/arrangement
  - Define new construction vs. addition/remodel
  - Training and Education
  - Acceptance Testing
- Statutes & Regulations (Chair) Steve Hart
  - Review existing contractor license and certification requirements
  - Training and Education
  - Liability issues
  - HCD (Title 25 vs. Title 24)
  - Manufactured housing
- Cost Offsets/Incentives (Chair) Bob Raymer
  - Infrastructure
  - Building & Fire Codes
  - Side yards (fire resistive walls)
  - Training and Education
- Local AHJ Issues (Chair) Morgana Yahnke
  - Local amendments
  - Plan review/inspection practices
  - Permits/fees
  - Consistency

- Building Officials/Fire Officials
- Training and Education
- Inspection, Maintenance, Testing

## **FORMATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

The subcommittees and their respective members were as follows:

- **Installation**  
*Steve Leyton – Chair*  
Ray Bizal  
Jim Bollier  
Darren Drake  
Todd Emery  
Richard Hinrichs  
Dave Hoover  
Cliff Hunter  
Bruce Lecair  
Tom McKinnon  
Ernie Paez  
Phil Raya  
Kevin Scott  
Byron Weisz
  
- **Statutes & Regulations**  
*Steve Hart – Chair*  
Heather Collins  
Darren Drake  
Doug Hensel  
Ernie Paez  
Phil Raya  
Scott Seegmiller  
Mike Stewart  
Billie Tribbett  
Byron Weisz
  
- **Cost Incentives**  
*Bob Raymer – Chair*  
Darren Drake  
Steve Hart  
David Hoover  
Steve Kiefer  
Ernie Paez  
Kevin Scott  
Morgana Yahnke
  
- **Local Issues**  
*Morgana Yahnke - Chair*  
Laura Blaul  
Darren Drake  
Todd Emery  
Cliff Hunter  
Steve Kiefer  
Bruce Lecair  
Ernie Paez  
Mike Stewart

**MISCELLANEOUS**

*Kevin Scott said he would send the amendment to 2012 IRC to the group when he had the email addresses. Ernie Paez was going to email the STEEP model to all for use as a guide when forming the subcommittee final recommendations. Judy Bankert was to send out a roster of the members and interested parties as well as a list of the subcommittees and the members of each subcommittee.*

**IDENTIFY DELIVERABLES FOR NEXT MEETING**

*The subcommittees were to meet and each subcommittee chair will have an update report for the task force at the next meeting.*

**SCHEDULE FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next two meetings were scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2009, and Thursday, May 21, 2009, at the Office of the State Fire Marshall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.