



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Residential Fire Sprinkler/Water Supply Task Force MINUTES *Thursday, October 9, 2008*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Mathisen, Roseville Fire Department (Co-chair)
Ernie Paez, CAL FIRE, OSFM (Co-chair)
Ray Bizal, National Fire Protection Association
Jim Bollier, Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers
Darren Drake, Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers
Steve Hart, Consultant
Ed Kriz, City of Roseville Water Utility
Mark Krause, Desert Water Agency*
Bruce Lecair, National Fire Sprinkler Association
Ian Mac Donald, So Cal Fire Prevention Officers
Bob Raymer, California Building Industry Association
Peter Solomon, Housing & Community Development
Julie Spacht, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power*
Mike Stewart, Fire District Association
Jennifer Whiting, League of California Cities

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Heather Collins, California Department of Public Health – Drinking Water
Doug Dupree, So Cal Fire Prevention Officers
Bill Kirkpatrick, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Representative, So Cal Water Utilities Association
Representative, American Water Works Association
Representative, Northern California Water Association
Representative, Regional Council of Rural Counties

STAFF:

Tonya Hoover, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Ben Ho, Division Chief, Fire Engineering
Vickie Sakamoto, Division Chief, Fire & Life Safety North
Steve Guarino, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire & Life Safety North
Cindy Moore, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire & Life Safety South*
James Parsegian, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering
Diane Arend, Deputy State Fire Marshal III, Code Development & Analysis

GUESTS:

David Luker, Desert Water Agency
Jose Rios, East Bay Municipal Utility District (representing Bill Kirkpatrick)
Kim Wilhelm, CDPH – Drinking Water (representing Heather Collins)
*via telephone conference call

INTRODUCTIONS

Tonya Hoover welcomed the group, thanked them for their time and expertise, and spoke on the importance of this task force. She also introduced the group to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) staff present. Self introductions were made by the co-chairs and the other task force members. The suggestion was made that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the California Building Officials Association (CALBO) be represented on the task force.

ESTABLISH TASK FORCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

After lengthy discussion by those present, the following goals and objectives were agreed upon.

Purpose of Task Force

The purpose of this task force is to provide information and suggested recommendations to the State Fire Marshal on all water supply issues related to residential fire sprinkler systems and to recommend strategies for solutions. This is in preparation for a statewide residential fire sprinkler requirement for new construction.

Task Force Goals

1. Identify issues related to residential fire sprinklers and water supply.
2. Recommend solutions.
 - a. Potential legislative/administrative law action?
 - b. Training and education
3. Identify applicable statutes/regulation and conflicts.
 - a. Water purveyor list
 - b. Fire service list
4. Identify cost offsets/incentives.
 - a. Infrastructure
 - b. Building and fire codes

Scope

The scope, as it relates to this task force, encompasses residential fire sprinklers and water supply 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

- Fees (Bruce Lecair - Chair)
 - Cost/fees (initial fees/on-going fees aka standby fees)
 - Conflict between PUC and special districts – who regulates fees?
 - Fee methodology
 - Applicability of AB 1600
- Connection Configuration (Julie Spacht – Chair)
 - Type/listing of meter
 - Meter sizing/arrangement
 - Water supply criteria – flow/pressure/duration
 - Back flow cross connection
 - Rural vs. municipal water supply
 - Pressure regulations (low/high/changes)
 - Potable water vs. purple water
 - Liability issues
 - Meter vs. no meter (preferred vs. optional connection)
 - Consistency
- Laws and Regulations (Steve Hart - Chair)
 - Liability and legal issues
 - Water purveyor shutting off water supply for non-payment
 - Potential legislative/ administrative law action?
 - Identify applicable statutes and regulation and conflicts
 - Water purveyor list
 - Fire service list
- Process Efficiencies & Cost Impacts (Bob Raymer – Chair)
 - Identify cost offsets/incentives (infrastructure and building/fire code/insurance rates)
 - Plan review/inspection practices
 - Building
 - Fire
 - Water

Parking Lot

From time to time other issues will come up during task force or subcommittee meetings that do not fall within the scope of this task force. Those items will be placed in a "parking lot" and will be forwarded to the Assistant State Fire Marshal for consideration at a later phase.

- *Maintenance of sprinkler system (what is required of homeowner)*
- *Contractor license requirements*

The issues subcommittees are made up of the following members:

- FEES
 - Ray Bizal
 - Mark Krause
 - Bruce Lecair – Chair
 - Ian Mac Donald
 - Dennis Mathisen
 - Ernie Paez
 - Julie Spacht
- CONNECTION CONFIGURATION
 - Ray Bizal
 - Jim Bollier
 - CALBO
 - Heather Collins
 - Bill Kirkpatrick
 - Ed Kriz
 - Mark Krause
 - Dennis Mathisen
 - Ernie Paez
 - Bob Raymer
 - Julie Spacht – Chair
 - Mike Stewart
 - Jennifer Whiting
- LAWS AND REGULATIONS
 - Heather Collins
 - Steve Hart – Chair
 - Ed Kriz
 - Dennis Mathisen
 - Ernie Paez
 - Peter Solomon
 - PUC
 - Jennifer Whiting
 - Kim Wilhelm
- PROCESS EFFICIENCIES & COST IMPACTS
 - Ray Bizal
 - CALBO
 - Darren Drake
 - Doug Dupree
 - Steve Hart
 - Bruce Lecair
 - Dennis Mathisen
 - Ernie Paez
 - Bob Raymer – Chair
 - Peter Solomon
 - Mike Stewart
 - Jennifer Whiting

Steve Hart will contact Fred Curry with the PUC, and Bob Raymer will contact CALBO, so that a representative from each organization will be given the opportunity to join the task force. ACWA and the Rural Water Association were also mentioned as agencies that might want to be represented on the subcommittees.

Ray Bizal said he would send a copy of the Handbook for Residential Fire Sprinklers to all the members of the task force if he were provided with the addresses.

GENERATE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:

A membership roster will be prepared from the task force sign-in sheet, and it will be sent out to all members along with the meeting minutes and a list of the four task force subcommittee members.

IDENTIFY DELIVERABLES FOR NEXT MEETING:

Each subcommittee chair will have an update report for the task force at the next meeting.

SCHEDULE FUTURE MEETINGS:

The group decided to hold meetings once a month with the next meeting on Thursday, November 20, in the main conference room at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The following two meetings will be on Wednesday, December 17, and on Wednesday, January 21. The January meeting will be in Southern California. The meeting times will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.