



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
December 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Office of the State Fire Marshal
2251 Harvard Street, Sacramento CA 95819
First Floor, Redwood Conference Room

COMMITTEE GOAL

To provide a means of communication between the Office of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of industry, the public and the fire service; and to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulations and intended future action.

OSFM STAFF

Al Adams, Committee Chairperson, OSFM
Kemiko Tolon, OSFM
Elena Rich, OSFM
Brice Bennett, OSFM
Mike Goth, OSFM
Kevin Chan, OSFM
Greg Andersen, OSFM
Jason Chavez, OSFM
Joshua Gibson, OSFM
Dan Scott, OSFM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Allen Quirk, CALSAFE
Wayne Weize, AFSA
Chip Lindley, Lindley Fire Protection
Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District
Stan Smith, Local 483
Jamie Knowles, Amerex
Jeff Awtery, California American Fire Sprinkler Association (CAFSA)
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
James Feld, University of California, Berkeley (retired)

Randy Dysart, CALSAFE (alternate)
Steve Fox, (alternate)
Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection
Peter Hulin, Superior Automatic Sprinkler Company (alternate)
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California
Bryan Jonson, West Sacramento Fire Department

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bruce Lecair, NFSA
Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation
Darrell Hefley, CALSAFE (alternate)
Todd Golden, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California

PUBLIC GUESTS

Top Meyers, Asurio
Laura Skidgel, Asurio
Kim Stocking, Advanco Fire Protection
Rigoberto Vasquez, Advanco Fire Protection
Vahe Zohrabian, Hydraulic Fire Protection
Bahman Brian Shahangian, California Fire Protection Coalition
John Holmes, Local 709
Ted Hakimi, Quality Fire Protection
Shelly Merrell, Integrated Fire & Safety

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Welcome
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Adams, at 9:30 a.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) on December 11, 2019.
 - b. Roll Call/Determine Quorum
Roll call was conducted by Dan Scott, and Chairperson Al Adams determined that a quorum of members was present. All attendees introduced themselves.
 - c. Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Stan Smith and seconded by Jason McBroom to approve the minutes of the earlier meeting on September 11, 2019. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously with a few minor corrections: new business Section C last paragraph is missing a sentence, Old Business Section B Title 10 should be Title 19, and "Accessible" should be added before concealed in old business 2b.
 - d. Announcements
Chairperson Al Adams welcomed the guests who were attending the meeting to take part and contribute their opinion. Chairperson Al Adams also welcomed two new Deputy State Fire Marshals' assigned to the AES program, Brice Bennett in Northern California, and Mike Goth in Southern California. They will act as technical experts to the Committee as inspectors and investigators in the field. They handle visiting sites and

investigating complaints. Chairperson Al Adams also welcomed deputies from the Fire and Life Safety division. The Fire and Life Safety staff will be introduced to the Fire Engineering and Investigations Division Committees to learn, understand the process, and to be more in tune with how the Office of the State Fire Marshal works on Committees. There are two deputies that will be at the AES Advisory Committee Meeting on a regular basis: Jason Chavez and Joshua Gibson. They will be coming in as technical advisors.

Chairperson Al Adams discussed GOVMOTUS. The Fire Engineering and Investigations division brought in a dedicated person to fix the issues that have been recognized. He attended a meeting with GOVMOTUS introducing the new payment system, so when you apply online you will be able to pay online, and it should cut the process by up to four weeks. Chairperson Al Adams said that we should have a lot of improvements for the next time there are renewals – online payment system should be done by March in time for renewals. He said that all problems have been found, and have come up with potential fixes, additional funding will be required.

Chairperson Al Adams spoke about the latest numbers for licensing that have been issued for the AES Program: Weekly Fire Pump license: 1,688, Type L: 523, Type I: 18, Type II: 38, Sprinkler Fitter Commercial/Multifamily: 3,903, Apprentice: 699, Trainee: 182. The system is currently unable to breakdown the difference between commercial and multifamily.

Changing the sprinkler fitter test has shown to have an 85 percent pass rate on exams.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Title 19, Chapter 5.5 clean-up

Chip Lindley discussed the 5.5 clean-up. The group has had several meetings, and are about 80 percent through the chapter clean-up. Many sections seemed redundant, and were contradictory in nature which, allowed improvement in areas that needed expansion. The last section 944, should be completed in the next meeting. The next step is to send a version for Chairperson Al Adams to approve and see if everyone agrees. Division Chief Greg Andersen still must review far reaching implication on rewriting the codes that are affecting other industries underground installers being needed to have a Sprinkler Fitter card.

Chip Lindley confirmed that there will be a version for everyone to review, and comment by the next meeting scheduled, January 29th.

Division Chief Greg Andersen explained the timeline for the Rule Making Process; he said that once it is complete and the workgroup has a recommendation from the Fire Marshal, Code Development will review for clarity, and it will go through an executive review. Once sent to the Office of Administrative Law, that is when the clock starts, and it must be completed within one year of submittal. He mentioned that they will look

very closely over the justification and 399 fiscal impact. Once they approve, it goes out to public comment. We are then mandated to respond to public comments and discuss the issues, which may be changing the codes. If we change the codes, it must go back out for another 15 days for public comment period. Division Chief Greg Andersen also mentioned that once we are done, we wrap-up with the final statement of reason (final notice) – it is then put in the regulations on a quarterly basis – every three months – we can ask for an earlier effective date. It can be done in six months, and then filed with Secretary of State.

b. CEU

Chairperson Al Adams, explained the Continuing Education Unit process, and how new Sprinkler Fitter regulations had requirements for CEUs to be completed by all Sprinkler Fitter licensees. One of the issues we came up with was that when we came out with the criteria of what was going to be needed by our CEU providers, we did it internally. He mentioned that we did it internally because we were looking at it administratively. Before it was completed, we wanted to get the input from our providers. There are ten approved CEU providers, and one is in the process of getting approved. We are hosting a meeting down in Long Beach where we are going to be having the providers attend, and we are going to listen to their criteria and get input and review our criteria.

Chip Lindley asked to get a copy of approved CEU providers, and Kemiko Tolon mentioned that they are listed online on the Office of the State Fire Marshal website. A Committee member asked what is the date of when the required CEUs come in affect? Kemiko Tolon mentioned that it starts June 30th, 2021. Chairperson Al Adams said that an Information Bulletin has not been released for CEU, but it will get released, and posted onto the OSFM website.

Steve Fox asked if there was a chance to present at the CEU meeting, and Chairperson Al Adams stated that we want to hear provider comments. Committee member asked if we are still accepting new applications for new providers, and Chairperson Al Adams confirmed that we are still taking new providers.

Steve Fox asked if the CEU meeting was an open meeting, and Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that we invited providers and potential providers. Committee members asked to confirm if the public can attend the meeting, and Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that if there is a legitimate reason to take part, then yes.

James Feld brought up that a lot of the classes were work place safety related. He does not think those classes should be a part of the CEU, since that is more of a CAL OSHA issue and not a Fire Marshal issue. When he looks at the purpose of chapter 5.5, it does not say anything about safety. He also mentioned that people should not get their CEU

based on safety related classes, and would like to get those classes expunged.

Wayne Weize disagreed, and wants to make sure that his staff is being safe, but agrees that he does not want all the classes to be on safety. Peter Hulin mentioned that we should limit the number of classes that a person can take in any category to get a well-rounded education.

Chairperson Al Adams suggested the Committee members form a workgroup to look at the issue. Members' mention that Chip Lindley is working on 5.5 workgroup for CEU, and they can add some recommendation for the full Committee to agree on.

Chairperson Al Adams came to a closing about CEU.

c. AES Forms

Top Myers gave an update about the AES forms. He mentioned that some of the third-party work had 50 – 75 percent still using paper forms around the country that were not ADA compliant. Top presented version I and version II of their forms. Laura Skidgel mentioned that they formatted the forms to be user friendly for anyone.

One of the Committee members asked if they can form a workgroup, since it is a big project. James Feld brought up a point that we doubled the number of papers being used, and that might be an issue.

Chairperson Al Adams asked the Committee members for a recommendation to continue this process. Chip Lindley recommended that we create a task group to review. Chairperson Al Adams asked if the Committee members were creating a motion to create a workgroup. Chip Lindley motioned and Allen Quirk second.

The Committee voted on the motion to form a workgroup and all were in favor.

Chairperson Al Adams asked Committee members who wants to be a lead in the workgroup – Committee members said that Bruce Lecair would be a good lead, and Chairperson Al Adams would reach out to him to confirm.

AES Forms work group consist of Allen Quirk, Randy Roxson, John Holmes, Steve Fox, Randy Dysart, Jason McBroom, Top Meyers, Peter Hulin, Shelly Merrill, and Wayne Weize volunteered to be on the workgroup. Co-chairperson, Allen Quirk.

Chairperson Al Adams called for a 10-minute break.

III. OPEN FORUM

The Committee reconvened after break. Chief Al Adams handed the podium to Dan Scott to discuss scheduling for upcoming meetings – following dates are listed: January 29, April 29, July 29, and October 28.

Chairperson Al Adams propose the following dates for next year and asked for suggestions if they do not agree. There were no suggestions.

Chairperson Al Adams called to motion the new dates for next year 2020 – Stan Smith motioned and Wayne Weize seconded.

Dan Scott called for a vote for new dates for next year: all were in favor, no oppositions, and no abstaining.

Committee member asked about chapter 5.5 enforcement and how are we handling. Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that we are handling complaints, and we check licenses to make sure they do have one. He also mentioned that we have two new investigators to work on complaints. He mentioned that we receive very few complaints. He also mentioned that we need to offer more education to locals to make sure they are following our regulations. Division Chief Greg Andersen asked what action do the locals take when they find someone that is not licensed – they might be removed from the site, but we are not rarely notified. Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that we focus more on if the crew is licensed. Peter Hulin mentioned that why not have the licensee's license number on their payroll report.

Committee member asked if phase two for the card's inspection, testing, and maintenance, will come up in the near future and will it be done by 2020. Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that it was up to the State Fire Marshal, but he recommended that it will not be done in 2020.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vahe Zohrabian listed a few issues with Continuing Education Units. One of the issues was lack of Spanish courses being offered and that was going to become an issue for Spanish speakers. He also said that classes were taking 80 percent of their time to complete, and it is considered fulltime employment.

V. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2020 at the OSFM office, 2241 Harvard Street, Sacramento, CA 95815 at 9:30 a.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Allen Quirk and seconded by Chip Lindley. Chairperson Al Adams adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time).