



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
January 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Office of the State Fire Marshal
2241 Harvard Street, Sacramento CA 95815
First Floor, Brenda Smith 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
Daniel Berlant, OSFM
Kemiko Tolon, OSFM
Brice Bennett, OSFM
Mike Goth, OSFM
Elena Rich, OSFM
Kevin Chan, OSFM
Dan Scott, OSFM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Allen Quirk, CALSAFE
Bruce Lecair, NFSA
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)
Todd Golden, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California (alternate)

Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE (alternate)
Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California
Darrell Hefley, CALSAFE (alternate)
Peter Hulin, Superior Automatic Sprinkler Company

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation
Bryan Jonson, West Sacramento Fire Department

PUBLIC GUESTS

Vahe Zohrabian, Hydraulic Fire Protection
Bahman Brian Shahangian, California Fire Protection Coalition
Terry Householder, General Underground Fire Protection
Kim Stocking, Advanco Fire Protection (Conference Line)
Amber Barrios, So Cal AFSA
John Holmes, Local 709

I. Call to Order

a. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Adams, at 9:39 a.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) on January 29, 2020.

b. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Elena Rich and Chairperson Adams determined that a quorum of members was present. All attendees introduced themselves.

c. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Edie Wade and seconded by Chip Lindley to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on December 11, 2019. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously with a few minor corrections to clarify Continuing Education Units (CEU) for the people that were grandfathered. Chairperson Al Adams noted that all agendas would be posted to the OSFM website after they are approved by the committee.

d. Announcements

Chairperson Al Adams welcomed the guests who were attending the meeting to participate and contribute their opinion. He introduced Chief Daniel Berlant. Chief Berlant said that they are working on mission base budgeting, and programs are short by three million dollars. He mentioned that they are looking into raising fees for all the programs except for Sprinkler Fitters – some of the programs have not had a fee increase in 10 to 30 years. He also mentioned that they are working hard to fix all the issues with GovMotus.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Continuing Education Units

Chairperson Al Adams discussed Continuing Education Units (CEU) and mentioned that Brice and Kemiko were working on a change in Continuing Education Units (CEU) to extend the timeline. Brice Bennett discussed the issues as they continue to grow the system – they are finding challenges. Since there are only 10 approved Continuing Education Units (CEU) providers, they want to give more opportunities to providers. They are proposing to push the dates to 2022.

Jeff Awtery mentioned that courses have a three-year life span, so if extending the date for Continuing Education Units (CEU), will the date for renewals be extended for courses that were submitted or will it need to be renewed. Chairperson Al Adams said they would need to consider it.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that if the extended date for Continuing Education Units (CEU) is approved, it will be posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshals website's bulletin board.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that if we approve the provider, we should let the provider worry about the qualifications of their instructors.

Committee member brought up how many safety classes are allowed to count towards Continuing Education Unit (CEU) – Kemiko Tolon mentioned that they were going to further discuss and decide at the 5.5 workgroup meeting.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they should just make sure courses are not repeated.

Chairperson Al Adams wrapped up Continuing Education Units (CEU) discussion and said it would further be discussed with the 5.5 workgroup clean-up.

b. Title 19, Chapter 5.5 clean-up

Chip Lindley thanked Kemiko, Dan and Elena for all their help and everyone in the committee. He mentioned that there were a lot of issues with the licensing and they touched on the training requirements. Continuing Education Units (CEU) are still a work in progress and they need to get more people certified. Chip Lindley also mentioned that it would be good to have another informational meeting.

Chairperson Al Adams asked if there was a date set for the next meeting, and Chip Lindley said no, but they would like to set one. Chairperson Al Adams said for everyone to email Elena Rich with proposed dates.

c. AES Form Update

Bruce Lecair mentioned that there will be an AES form's meeting on February 18, 2020. They will look at a proposed model from Asurio, and their goal is to have it done by March 1st, 2020 and be ready to present to the Office of the State Fire Marshal by April 29, 2020.

Bruce Lecair said that there was an issue with the change that occurred in the 13-edition regarding what a fire sprinkler system should be defined as. Asurio wants us to be on the same page with the current change. He asked that we look at what Top Meyers sent, since that will be discussed in the meeting on February 18th, 2020. Bruce Lecair asked to send him comments, so they can be discussed Forms Revision Committee Meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Sprinkler Fitter – Trainee License

Chairperson Al Adams discussed an issue that has been coming up regarding trainee licensing – he has been receiving different answers and wants clarification on this issue. He asked if a trainee can take his one year in increments or do the trainees have one year from the time their license was issued.

Chief Daniel Berlant mentioned that the employer has three months to report to the OSFM when they hire a trainee. Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they do not have a system that tracks work experience and that their system can only track yearly.

Chairperson Al Adams asks the committee members how would they want to enforce the trainee licensing. Chip Lindley said that if the Office of the State Fire Marshal does not have a way to track it, then it should not be done that way. They agree that once they apply and their trainee license is issued, that is when their one year starts.

IV. OPEN FORUM

James Feld mentioned that he reviewed the meeting minutes from Fire Alarm committee meeting, and they were discussing drought conditions about main drain test during the drought. He thinks that the AES committee should have input if they agree on what they are doing. Chairperson Al Adams said he would look into it, and see what their intended language will be and if it will affect their committee.

John Holmes discussed section 938 requirement to have proof of an employment letter for registered apprentice. He suggests removing item number 4 in section 938, since you cannot register with the State of California Apprenticeship Program without having an employer.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vahe Zohrabian asked if they are unable to complete their 30 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU), what happens to their license. Chairperson Al Adams said that they have one year to renew, so if they missed their three years, they have one more year to complete Continuing Education Units (CEU). If they do not complete the units before the year is over, then they must reapply and retest.

Wayne Weize asked If he brings an out of state Sprinkler Fitter and he has all the experience, can he vet him and test him or would he have to be enrolled in an apprenticeship program.

VI. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2020 at the OSFM office, 2241 Harvard Street, Sacramento, CA 95815.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairperson Al Adams. Chairperson Al Adams adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time).