



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 445-8200
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



**CALFIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2018**

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.

STAFF

Jeffrey Schwartz, Committee Chairperson, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal
Daniel Berlant, Assistant Deputy Director, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal
Andrea Clayton Chan, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal
Vikkie Raby, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal
Kevin Chan, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal
Dan Scott, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal

MEMBERS PRESENT

Allan Quark, CAL SAFE
Darrell Hefley, CAL SAFE (alternate)
Randy Dysart, CAL SAFE (alternate)
Bruce Lecair, NFSA
Wayne Weize, AFSA
Chip Lindley, Lindley Fire Protection
Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection
Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District
Steve Fox, Local 483
Jeff Awtery, Marquee Fire Protection
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
James Feld, University of California, Berkeley
Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bryan Johnson, West Sacramento Fire Department
Craig Voelkert, Amerex

PUBLIC

Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz at 9:42 AM on December 12, 2018.

II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves. The chair determined that there was a quorum of members present.

III. RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

a. State Fire Marshal Committee Intent Overview

Chief Daniel Berlant thanked the committee members for their service and stressed their importance to advising the OSFM to better increase communication and education within the industry. He summarized the many challenges of implementing the new sprinkler fitter licenses and updated the committee on progress the Fire Engineering and Investigations Division in better delivering customer service. These include the transferal of examinations to Pearson VUE, the transition of licensing to the GOVMOTUS database system and additional staff which has both been hired and will be hired in 2019.

b. Charter

Jeffrey Schwartz reviewed the committee charter (attached). He noted that there were still two openings on the committee, one to represent Fire Service and one to represent Associations.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. OSFM Priorities

i. NFPA 25

The next edition of NFPA will be available Summer 2019, so the committee should focus on staying as up-to-date as possible by using both the 17 edition as the boilerplate and monitor the updates being prepared for 20. Schwartz will try to obtain a version in Microsoft Word from NFPA liaison Ray Bazal and will contact James Parsegian to get copies of updates he was working on and invite him to a future meeting.

One pressing issue is with concealed sprinkler heads and the inability to inspect them. Jack will bring the proposed language on them and present to the workgroup. Another issue is a possible change to the frequency of inspection and maintenance table.

A motion was made by Bruce and seconded by Jose to form an NFPA 25 workgroup, meet in the first quarter of 2019 and create a draft of suggested updates by comparing the CA 2013 edition with NFPA 25 2017 and 2020. The motion passed 12-0.

A motion was made by James and seconded by Chip to direct the NFPA 25 workgroup to maintain existing guidelines for time intervals for the new edition as quarterly, annually and every 5 years. The motion failed with a 6-6 vote.

A motion was made by Jose and seconded by Randy to suggest that the NFPA 25 workgroup use the existing guidelines for time intervals unless there is a compelling reason to alter them. The motion passed 12-0.

Volunteers or nominations for the NFPA 25 Workgroup should be submitted by email to Schwartz by January 11. OSFM will let the committee know how the workgroup will be formed.

A motion was made by Chip and seconded by Steve for the committee to meet quarterly and passed 12-0.

The committee decided to meet quarterly and scheduled the 2019 meetings on March 20, June 12, September 11 and December 11.

All members and alternates present volunteered to sit on at least one committee. Bruce made a motion and Edie seconded the motion to move approve these members as volunteers. The motion passed with a 12-0 vote.

Jack offered several suggestions of topics for people to research and for workgroups to discuss.

- *The forms on p 147 and 150 with electrical and diesel look identical but need updating, but it was pointed out that OSFM has already updated these and the updates will be in NFPA 25.

- *Recalled sprinklers are difficult to identify. Jim states that all recalled fire suppression products will be included in Title 19 update, section 904.

- * Non-sprinklered areas in altered buildings.

- *Collected data on deficiencies. 35% of buildings have the wrong occupancies, largely warehouses. There is a yes/no sticker, but a green/yellow/red sticker would be more useful in addressing levels of deficiencies. Bruce suggested looking at how Florida does it. Chip states that needs to be clear and simple guidance on how critical a deficiency is and specifically how and when to address it.

The NFPA 25 Workgroup will meet February 13th at 9:30 AM.

ii Phase II of Certification

OSFM is planning to implement phase 2 of the pipefitters certification, which is testing and maintenance, but it will be on the back burner until the NFPA 25 update is underway and until OSFM can make progress on other FEI programs. No workgroup will be formed as this will not be addressed for at least 6 months.

Within phase 1 of the rollout, there is a high failure rate for the examination, about 50%. Suggestions for improving this is to create a study guide, make some or all of the exam open book, offer training or classes for candidates to study exam topics. Another suggestion is to form a small subcommittee formed of those who already have helped design the exam and signed NDAs to revisit exam content and evaluate the appropriateness of the questions and the structure of the exam as the exam was developed by a third party test development company without subject experience. Other professional exams have very specific guidance on the manuals needed to study for the exam and how many questions are taken from each chapter or subject.

OSFM is looking into the number of non-English speaking sprinkler fitters and how to better communicate and certify them.

Some AHJ are unclear on how to enforce the different levels of certification. OSFM will consider sending out a bulletin to explain them.

Continuing education requirements require a minor clean-up, the OSFM is already working on this language. One suggestion is to give continuing education units to instructors of classes, as this is the standard in many other industries.

V. **OPEN FORUM**

The font on the Sprinkler Fitter card is quite small.

VI. **ACTION ITEMS**

All committee members will assemble suggested regulatory updates and compare the CA 2013 edition with NFPA 25 2017 and 2020.

Jack will email the committee the language on concealed sprinkler heads.

Schwartz will try to obtain a version of NFPA 25 in Microsoft Word from NFPA liaison Ray Bazal.

Schwartz will contact James Parsegian to get copies of updates he was working on and invite him to a future meeting.

OSFM will recruit members for the vacant committee positions.

OSFM will approve members of the NFPA 25 workgroup.

OSFM will consider sending out a bulletin to AHJ to explain the different levels of certification.

OSFM will consider the next steps to increase the pass rate of the examination.

VII. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2019.

The NFPA 25 workgroup meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2019.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Schwartz at 2:51 PM.