



STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee

December 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes, 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Zoom Meeting Conference Call

Meeting ID: 210 520 3211

MEMBERS PRESENT

Allen Quirk, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CALSAFE)

Wayne Weisz, American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA)

Chip Lindley, Lindley Fire Protection

James Feld, University of California, Berkeley (retired)

Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection, Inc.

Darrell Hefley, Jorgenson Company

Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment Company

Peter Hulin, National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA)

Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California

Shelley Merrell, Integrated Fire & Safety

Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District

Jeff Awtrey, California American Fire Sprinkler Association (CAFSA)

Bryan Jonson, West Sacramento Fire Department

Steven Fox, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices, Local 483 (alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Dysart, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CALSAFE)

Stanley Smith, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices, Local 483

OSFM STAFF

Al Adams, Committee Chairperson, OSFM

Vickie Sakamoto, Co-Chair, OSFM

Kemiko Tolon, OSFM

Elena Rich, OSFM

Brice Bennett, OSFM

Vikkie Franklin, OSFM
Ben Ho, OSFM

PUBLIC GUESTS

Jaime Knowles, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CALSAFE)
Amber Barrios, Associated Compliance & Training
Kim Stocking, Advanco
Leslie Clounts, American Fire Sprinkler Association
John Holmes, Sprinkler Fitter Local 709
Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
Todd Golden, Sprinkler Fitter Local 709
Vahe Zohrabian, Hydraulic Fire Protection
Ted Hakimi, California Fire Protection Coalition
Danny Stevens, Sprinkler Fitter Local 709
Jeff Dickson, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices, Local 483
James Carver, So CAL FBO, Equipment Devices Committee
Jeff Halbert, So CAL FBO, Equipment Devices Committee
Rigo Vasquez, Advanco
Steve Schwartz, Consolidated Fire Protection

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Adams, at 9:35 A.M. PDT on December 8, 2021.

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Elena Rich and Chairperson Al Adams determined that a quorum of members was present.

C. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Al Adams asked for approval of the minutes of the July 28, 2021 meeting.

It was moved by Member Edie Wade to approve the minutes, motion second by Member Shelley Merrell. Motion was unanimously approved at 10:00 A.M. PDT.

E. Announcements

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that the office of the State Fire Marshal has moved from the Harvard location to the new Resource Building in downtown Sacramento.

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto to discuss the move. Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto mentioned that the mail has been slower due to the holidays, so she asked people to be patient since some

of the mail is still going to the old building. She mentioned that there were changes made for their staff and are no longer having desk phones and will now have cellphones. She mentioned that if you email someone, their current cellphone should be listed. Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto asked for patience while they settle into the new building.

Chairperson Al Adams asked for people to be patient while they unpack and settle in. He mentioned that they have two floors at the new Resource Building. He mentioned that as of right now, it will be very difficult to visit in person because they do not have the capability. He asked if it was necessary to come into the office, they will need to call and make an appointment.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they received a suggestion regarding their complaint forms. They have developed new complaint forms just for the Sprinkler Fitter program. The form is going through ADA complaint, and then it will be posted to their website within the next week.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they are reaching the due date for the Continuing Education Units (CEUs) during next year's renewal period. He mentioned that there were a lot of questions regarding CEUs, so Kemiko Tolon started a question-and-answer booklet, and it will be emailed to all the people that are licensed with The Office of the State Fire Marshal. Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that since it is their first time requiring CEUs, they want to make it easier, so they are accepting all CEUs that were taken after the start of the Sprinkler Fitter program whether they were approved or not. He mentioned if you took CEUs after July 1, 2017, they will be accepted.

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Kemiko Tolon to further discuss the Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Kemiko Tolon mentioned that she received several questions regarding CEUs, so she created the question-and-answer to answer all common questions. She mentioned that the question-and-answer booklet will be emailed to everyone that has a current license with The Office of the State Fire Marshal. She mentioned that if anyone wanted a copy, they could send her an email.

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Brice Bennett to the AES program, and he will be the new technical person within the program – he will be the code person for the AES program.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Partial Sprinkler Fitters

Chairperson Al Adams introduced guest speaker Jeff Halpert to discuss regarding annuals and five-year inspections. Jeff Halpert mentioned junior limited area sprinkler fitters' systems regarding the one head dumpster's

sprinklers that were required to have an annual and 5-year inspections. He mentioned that they put together a draft for the NFPA 25 and they want to add a definition for limited areas sprinkler systems that takes the definition out of 13 and brings it into 25 California addition. He mentioned that it would only inspect the sprinkler systems and limited area national of six sprinkler heads. Guest Jeff Halpert mentioned that they want to keep it as an inspection only.

Chairperson Al Adams asked guest Jeff Halpert if he had the actual language to present to the Committee Members, so he could send it out to all Committee Members.

Member Chip Lindley asked if they wanted to eliminate the inspections for the partial sprinkler fitters or adding inspections.

Guest Jeff Halpert mentioned that they want to clarify because a limited area could be considered a sprinkler system and it usually is a one head over a dumpster.

Member Chip Lindley mentioned that is an important thing to get inspected and wants to make sure it is not removed.

Member Jason Hudgins asked what about the current code doesn't satisfy the requirements that are in place. He mentioned that if there is no check bulb, then no inspections are required – the existing forms already work for these forms.

Member Peter Hulin asked if they would need to have another form for this type of inspections.

Guest Jeff Halpert said that they already have a form for it.

Chairperson Al Adams asked if this is becoming an issue that is being addressed because of the difference of opinions around the state.

Guest Jeff Halpert said that they want this done, so they can make this consistent.

Chairperson Al Adams said that they would need to look at the proposal and that consistency has been lacking. He mentioned that it is a larger problem that needs to be looked at for consistency.

Chairperson Al Adams asked Jeff Halpert what he was looking to get from the Committee Members.

Guest Jeff Halpert wants a recommendation from the Committee and to get his recommendations into NFPA 25.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they would keep this topic on the agenda and send the information to the committee members for a possible vote and discuss it on the next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they would like for people to reach out to Brice Bennett because he would like for him to see the training facilities. One of his responsibilities will be to monitor the classes to make sure they are evaluated correctly.

Chairperson Al Adams discussed the fee schedule proposal and mentioned the fees have been updated.

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto to discuss the fee schedule. Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto mentioned the proposed fees were re-evaluated and changes were made to the Sprinkler Fitter, Apprentice and Trainee fees.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned the fees were able to be readjusted due to relocation of certain staff. He mentioned the fees are proposed only and are still in the process of being approved.

Member Peter Hulin mentioned that he is glad about the direction that everything is going, but he is worried about the enforcement issues that are involved in the program.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that, since the start of the program, they have had issues with local enforcement partners enforcing.

Guest Randy Roxson left a comment regarding Cal Fire Law Enforcement being involved in licensing enforcement sweeps and wanted to know why they no longer do those sweeps.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that the Office of the State Fire Marshal helped with enforcement, but the issue is going into someone else's jurisdiction and doing enforcements. He mentioned the importance of helping other jurisdictions seeing the importance of the enforcement.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Vahe Zohrabian mentioned that half of the people are enforcing and doing their job, and the other half is ignoring it. He asked why they must punish people

that cannot work and not look at the cause of it. Vahe mentioned that Nevada has a good model and they do not have an Apprenticeship program.

Member Allen Quirk asked if they could publish the staff cellphone numbers to their newsletters.

Chairperson Al Adams said that they no longer have desk phones, so they can post the new cellphone numbers.

Guest Kim Stocking asked what they are requiring for Continuing Education Units.

Kemiko Tolon mentioned that since the program started June 2017, they will be accepting any Continuing Education Units and the question and answers will be coming out soon.

Guest Amber Barrios asked if there were any stipulations on the Continuing Education Units.

Kemiko Tolon said that the Continuing Education Units must be taken by one of their providers or nationally accredited providers.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they will need to look at what classes are appropriate.

VI. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2022.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Al Adams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Chairperson Al Adams adjourned the meeting at 11:44 A.M. PDT.