



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
July 28, 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
Stanley Smith, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices, Local 483
James Feld, University of California, Berkeley (retired)
Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection, Inc.
Darrell Hefley, Jorgenson Company
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
Peter Hulin, National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA)
Randy Dysart, National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California
Shelley Merrell, Integrated Fire & Safety
Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District
Bryan Jonson, West Sacramento Fire Department
Jeff Awtrey, California American Fire Sprinkler Association (CAFSA)

OSFM STAFF

Al Adams, Committee Chairperson, OSFM
Vickie Sakamoto, Co-Chair,
OSFM Daniel Berlant, OSFM
Kemiko Tolon, OSFM
Elena Rich, OSFM
Nissa Harvey, OSFM
Greg Anderson, OSFM
Mike Goth, OSFM

Kevin Chan, OSFM

PUBLIC GUESTS

Jaime Knowles, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CALSAFE)
Drew Slocomb, InspecPoint
Amber Barrios, Associated Compliance & Training
Kim Stocking, Advanco
Bruce LeClair, American Fire Sprinkler Association
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

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Adams, at 9:34 A.M. PDT on July 28, 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 April 28, 2021 meeting.

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

E. Announcements

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Chief Daniel Berlant to give comments from the Office of the State Fire Marshal Executive Office. Chief Daniel Berlant mentioned that Chief Mike Richwine and Chief Wendy Collins appreciate the continued engagement. He also mentioned that he is looking forward to the regulations reaching the finish line.

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Kemiko Tolon to discuss the Sprinkler Fitter renewals. Kemiko Tolon stated that the renewals are falling into place and now that they are accepting credit card payments, and processing is moving faster. She mentioned that the renewal stickers are now color coded by license type and that if you need assistance, to reach out to her or Elena Rich.

Chairperson Al Adams stated we are looking at replacing stickers with electronic certificates. We are looking at other state departments to see how they issue licenses and different types of technology.

Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto stated GOVMotus is up and running and the application process is going a lot faster were a few glitches. She asked for feedback or issues with the GOVMotus program.

Chairperson Al Adams announced that the Office of the State Fire Marshal may reconsider the historical recognition portion for the Chapter 5.5 of Title 19, California Code of Regulations (CCR). He requested for the committee members and guests to send him an email with their thoughts.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Title 19, CCR, Chapter 5.5 Clean-Up

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that at the last meeting the committee decided to send Chapter 5.5 Clean-Up back to the committee because there were still a lot of questions, so he had Member Chip Lindley create another workgroup.

Member Chip Lindley mentioned they had around six meetings and that everything was addressed, and they would like to move forward and submit to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for review.

Chairperson Al Adams asked Member Chip Lindley if they were ready to submit the document as the final and asked for a motion to move forward.

It was moved by Member Chip Lindley to submit the final documents for the Chapter 5.5 Clean – Up, motion second by Member Jason McBroom. Motion was unanimously approved at 10:02 A.M. PDT.

Chairperson Al Adams stated that OSFM will start the review of the regulations for the Chapter 5.5 Clean–Up. He hoped to have the review completed by the end of the year.

B. AES Forms

Chairperson Al Adams thanked Member Shelley Merrell for all the hard work she has done. Member Shelley Merrell talked about the forms and wanted everyone's opinion regarding on if the forms should have check boxes or drop-down boxes on the forms. Member Chip Lindley mentioned that having the forms look consistence is important.

Member Jim Feld mentioned that the forms should be simple as possible and that check boxes would be the simplest way.

It was moved by Member Jason McBroom to accept AES forms with check boxes, motion second by Member Allen Quirk. Motion was unanimously approved at 10:21 A.M. PDT.

C. Fee Increase

Chairperson Al Adams explained fee increase and mentioned that the Department of Finance conducted an audit on our programs. Department of Finance recommended increasing our licensing program fees based on mission-based budgeting. Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that the program wants to break even and that the Department of Finance suggested a 10% overage.

Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto stated the division has been undergoing an internal process and a financial exercise for the past two years. She mentioned that the goal of the exercise is to determine which business processes needs updating to continue to meet their statutory mandates. As a result of the analysis, it has been determined that the fee schedule must be updated.

Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto mentioned that the revenue that was brought in was \$1,083,280 and the expenditure was \$2,223,093 with a shortfall of \$1,139,813.

Member Chip Lindley asked if the deficit was due to there not being enough members in the program.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that it can vary depending on what license because the fees have not been increased in so many years, or the cost of things have gone up. He stated the fees should have been raised every four years.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that when the Sprinkler Fitter program was created, they expected around 8,000 Sprinkler Fitters and they only received around 4,600, so that is why the fees needs to be increased.

Member Stanley Smith asked if a multiyear license would be considered – similar to the driver's license and if that would be more cost effective.

Chairperson Al Adams said that they have not considered that, but it would not be more cost effective because they would still have the same staff assigned to the program.

Member Stanley Smith asked when the fee increase would be implemented.

Chairperson Al Adams stated that they would need to have it done before renewal year of 2022.

III. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Member Jeff Awtrey asked what the turnaround is for when an Apprentice finishes their program and can sign up for their exam.

Kemiko Tolon mentioned that it was up to them on how long it can take because they are the ones that sign up for their exam, so it can take as little as 30 days or 4 to 6 weeks if they mail in their application.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Amber Barrios mentioned that Associated Compliance and Training is opening a publicly available apprenticeship program. She stated they are trying to make it easier for people to get into apprenticeship programs.

Guest Vahe Zohrabian asked why they are allowing a public member to advertise their business at AES meetings. He stated GOVMotus has a lot of glitches, upload, and submittal problems, and the infrastructure is not there. He mentioned they are charged with late fee charges and 100% fee increases on the workers. Guest Vahe Zohrabian mentioned there are 3,800 certified workers and unions have about 2,500 by their own admission, but it leaves them with 1,300 workers for California. He said that non-unions are doing 90% of the work in California.

Guest John Holmes asked if the same staff was working on all the other programs. He mentioned that a fee increase across the board did not seem right. He stated that he would like to thank Kemiko and Elena for the work they do and indicated that they are overworked and need more people.

Guest Ted Hakimi mentioned the issue is the additional revenue that the Office of the State Fire Marshal needs. He stated that two years ago there were 2,675 C-16 fire protection companies in California. The numbers that were previously discussed, were not too farfetched. He mentioned that out of the 2,675 companies, 80% were merit shops, and the rest were union. He said there is a huge number of Sprinkler Fitters that are not licensed, and the goal is to penalize and bring people in.

Member Randy Roxson asked if all the investigation staff was utilized in all the programs and how many staff members were assigned to the program.

Chairperson Al Adams said that each investigative staff are designated to their own program. He mentioned there are 8 staff designated to the Automatic Extinguishing Systems program and there are some vacancies.

Guest Kim Stocking discussed workers compensation report 5185 and 5186 codes cover every labor under C-16 licenses, so that might be the reason of the inflation in the numbers.

VI. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2021.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

It was moved by Member Darrell Hefley to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Member Shelley Merrell. Chairperson Al Adams adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M. PDT.

DRAFT