



Office of the State Fire Marshal
Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time)

Office of the State Fire Marshal
2251 Harvard Street Sacramento, CA 95815
First Floor, Redwood Conference Room

Committee members present

Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
Randy Dysart, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CAL SAFE)
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen Company
Randy Rousseau, La Sierra Fire Equipment
Jamie Knowles, Amerex
Frank Gardner, Stanford University (arrived at 10:28 a.m.)

Committee members participating via teleconference

J.R. Nerat, Badger/Kidde
Robert Calderon, Kaiser Permanente (arrived at 10:20 a.m.)

Committee members not present

Anthony Romero, Kern County Fire Department
Tom Santos, Imperial Beach Fire Safety Services
Chris Hoiland, Orange County Fire Protection
Al Minicola, Suppression Pro
Patrick Chew, Roseville Fire Department

OSFM staff present

Jeffrey Schwartz, Committee Chairperson
Kevin Chan, OSFM
Nissa Harvey, OSFM
Jennifer Reiss, OSFM
Dan Scott, OSFM

Public guests

Terry Layton, TLC Fire (via teleconference)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and logistics briefing

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. (PDT).

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll was taken and a quorum was not present. Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz noted that without a quorum, no business could be conducted. Robert Calderon and Frank Gardner arrived late and were not included in the roll call.

At 10:27 a.m., quorum was established with the arrival of two members.

C. Approval of previous minutes

Darrel Hefley noted that the workgroup chairs needed to be switched. The vote to approve the minutes was tabled.

After quorum was established, Edie Wade made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the one change noted. Randy Dysart seconded, the motion passed 7-0.

D. Announcements

Dan Scott said that all Fire Extinguisher examinations were now available through Pearson VUE. Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz said that the California Department of Finance was reviewing the Fire Engineering and Investigations Division to determine if current staffing levels were appropriate for their responsibilities and workload. The process should be complete in approximately one year.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. CCR Title 19/NFPA 10 review update

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz noted that the two workgroups had completed their review and that all Committee members were emailed copies of their reports which were finalized at the previous meeting. Darrel Hefley said that there were no significant changes were made at since the previous meeting, but there were a small number of topics on which the workgroups did not reach consensus and could be discussed by the Committee.

The following sections of the 2018 edition of NFPA 10: Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers and/or Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 3 were discussed by the Committee, with discussion led by Darrel Hefley:

7.8.4.5.1, regarding pressurizing adapters, is not addressed in Title 19 and the workgroup made no recommendation upon it. There are many after-market adapters which do not always work properly and the user or AHJ will not know this until it is used, which can damage fire extinguisher components. Additionally, some people improperly use discharge

adapters as pressurizing adapters. Manufacturers are required to suggest preferred adapters in the service manuals for their extinguishers. The Committee decided to move this language into Title 19.

7.3.3.2.2, regarding the frequency of annual maintenance, could be added to Title 19. The workgroup was not sure if this would add any value and thought it may be confusing in the field. The Committee agreed and declined to add any language.

7.3.3.3, regarding emptying and examining the canister during annual maintenance, was being added to Title 19 575.4(a)(3), but does additional language need to be added or removed in 575.4(b) or 575.4(c) in addition to this change? The Committee decided to make no additional changes beyond the manufacturer recommendation to internally examine.

The Committee is adding 7.8.1.1 to 578.1, but should additional language be added to exclude carbon dioxide extinguishers? The Committee agreed and will add this language.

7.8.3.9.2, regarding water content in carbon dioxide extinguishers, measures water content by parts per million in NFPA but by percentage in Title 19. The consequence is that some maintenance is performed using carbon dioxide which does not meet standards. There are four different grades of carbon dioxide, only one is suitable for fire protection. The Committee decided to remove 0.01% standard in Title 19 and replace it with 60 ppm.

574.1 concerns the monthly inspection. The Committee decided that any use of electronic monitoring for the monthly inspection must have prior approval by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

574.4 and 575.1(b) concerns non-rechargeable extinguishers. The Committee decided to add language that when service life is exceeded they are to be discharged and removed from service.

578.1 concerns recharging extinguishers. When an extinguisher is recharged, it will be subject to internal maintenance with an exception for carbon dioxide extinguishers

596.3(b)(1) discusses service collars. The Committee decided to add language that the verification collar is installed without modification or distortion. This may also need to be added to the installation section, which is 563.3(b).

557.1(c) concerns the scales designated as legal for trade and asked if the reference and compliance to Business and Professions Code 12500(a) and 12501.1 was correct. The Committee concluded that no changes are required.

557.23 concerns water-type extinguishers. The language from 7.8.3.10.2 and 7.8.3.11.2 should be referenced and "wet chemical and water mist" needs to be added to the definition of a water-type extinguisher.

591.5 and 575.1 concern the 60-day return requirement on loaner extinguishers. No changes shall be made, but the Committee will further discuss this topic in the future based on language being developed by OSFM.

566 concerns applications for specific hazards. The sentence structure is unclear if the minimum AC rating in (e) applies to only distilled water or to all three of the listed substances. In addition, whether to use deionized or distilled water must be clarified. The Committee considered changing the language around this based on NFPA 10, but J.R. Nerat pointed out that NFPA 10 is currently discussing a change in this. The Committee recommends a more general language change, in that delicate electronic equipment shall only be protected by Class C extinguishers.

6.1.3.3.3 concerns signage for the location of extinguishers. The NFPA 10 requirements are more specific than Title 19 567(l), which is vague. These requirements are more specific in the Building Code (Title 24) so the Committee decided that it does not need additional clarification in Title 19.

5.5.7 and 5.5.7.1 concern areas containing oxidizers. There is new language in NFPA 10, the Committee decided that it should be added to Title 19.

Title 19 has outdated language in 565.1 regarding hazard classifications which changed in 2007. Examples could not be used to define categories, there needed to be a quantifiable means to evaluate and categorize. The rest of Title 19 should be scanned to be sure there are no other outdated references to hazard classifications which should be edited. The new categories are light, ordinary and extra hazards. NFPA has a table in the back which explains this, which should be added to Title 19 568, Table 2.

Randy Dysart suggested that signatures be addressed. There are constant issues with the signatures on service tag not matching the signatures on file with OSFM. Title 19 references these requirements in 557.19 and 596.5, Health and Safety Code 13183 also has requirements. A possible remedy is to have people provide both a standard signature and a "tag signature" to be placed in a smaller space. He will bring suggestions to the next meeting.

B. Rusoh Eliminator fire extinguisher

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz wanted the Committee to clarify if there was going to be any action taken on this topic. The committee stated that this was not the intention of the presentation at the previous meeting, it was for informational purposes only.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Regulations package and fee schedule

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz has draft language which has been developed by OSFM which he will share with the Committee. The fee

schedule is also part of the package, but will not be included in the draft as this will be dependent upon analysis by the Department of Finance. The Fire Extinguisher Program expenses have exceeded income for at least five years, so a fee increase is expected. The goal is to have this package completed by Summer 2020.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Edie Wade brought samples of seals for discussion. There will be language changes in the upcoming regulations package so she wanted to show the Committee different examples of customizable tags.

Randy Rousseau and J.R. Nerat briefly discussed the development of dry chemical analysis by a third party, which is currently only done by manufacturers for their own products. They will have more information at the December meeting.

J.R. Nerat wanted clarification on 592.3, requirements for testing fire extinguishers on vehicles. They are required to undergo hydrostatic testing every five years. He asked if this should specify rechargeable extinguishers, as disposable extinguishers are not hydrotested. He also asked if this meant that disposable extinguishers on vehicles needed to be replaced every five years. The Committee agreed to discuss this in December.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time). The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m. (PDT).