



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
February 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Zoom Meeting Conference Call
Meeting ID: 964 7035 8250

MEMBERS PRESENT

Allen Quirk, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment
Wayne Weisz, American Fire Sprinkler Association
Chip Lindley, Lindley Fire Protection
Stanley Smith, Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices, Local 483
James Feld, University of California, Berkeley (retired)
Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection, Inc.
Darrell Hefley, Jorgenson Company
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
Peter Hulin, National Fire Sprinkler Association
Randy Dysart, National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors
Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California
Shelley Merrell, Integrated Fire & Safety

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bryan Jonson, West Sacramento Fire Department
Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District
Jeff Awtrey, California American Fire Sprinkler Association (CAFSA)

OSFM STAFF

Al Adams, Committee Chairperson, OSFM
Vickie Sakamoto, OSFM
Vikkie Raby, OSFM
Kemiko Tolon, OSFM
Elena Rich, OSFM
Joe Konefal, OSFM

Ben Ho, OSFM
Kevin Chan, OSFM

PUBLIC GUESTS

Amber Barrios, Associated Compliance & Training
Kim Stocking, Advanco
Greg Gilbert, Orange County Fire Protection
Todd Barry, Sprinkler Fitter Local 669
Dean Wetherston, ProTechnology
Bruce Lecair, American Fire Sprinkler Association
Todd Golden, Sprinkler Fitter Local 709
Jeff Bridges, American Fire Sprinkler Association
Jonathan Joseph, Symons Fire Protection
Leslie Clounts, American Fire Sprinkler Association
Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Adams, at 9:30 A.M. PDT on February 16, 2021.

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Kemiko Tolon 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 October 28, 2020 meeting.

It was moved by member Edie Wade to approve the minutes; motion second by member Stanley Smith. Motion was unanimously approved at 10:04 A.M. PDT.

E. Announcements

Chairperson Al Adams introduced a few new Committee members: Peter Hulin, Randy Dysart, Shelley Merrell, and Darrell Hefley. There are still a few other members that submitted their letters for membership and are waiting approval from Executive staff for consideration. There are currently 15 members and that is the limit, but the State Fire Marshal's office can change that.

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Chief Joe Konefal as the new Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Fire Engineering and Investigations Division – Arson and Bomb Unit.

Chairperson Al Adams discussed Automatic Extinguishing Systems testing with Pearson Vue is having more locations opening. All the people that have requested testing, have received appointments and have been able to take their test. He also mentioned that the Office of the State Fire Marshal is still closed to the public and any business must be conducted via email or phone calls.

Co-Chair Vickie Sakamoto discussed online payments are being offered in GovMotus which came into effect on January 15th. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is working on a fee increase regulation package due to budgeting and will present the numbers at the next meeting. The regulations package should be moving forward for the fee increase.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Title 19, Chapter 5.5 Clean-Up

Member Chip Lindley mentioned that they have not made a lot of progress because they have to go through four to five sections that have to be address with the Committee. Section 923 (a) Exception 3: add pre-engineered and engineered and removing the term water based because it does not fall into any of the categories. Member Chip Lindley wants approval from the Committee to take out water based from fixed extinguishing systems category. He wants to bridge the scope intent in Section 923 (a) Exception 3 and the definition of 924.xx.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that the subcommittee must decide and it can be brought back as an entire package and put to a vote.

Member Chip Lindley also discussed Section 925.1: Fee Schedule (Item 9) retest fee. He mentioned fitters having three times to take the test should be revised, since the test is pushing 90 percent pass rate. He asked if they should have the fitters have one or two retest.

Member Allen Quirk said that if they take it two times and fail, they should not be able to take it three times.

Chairperson Al Adams said that it would not be a regulatory issue because that number was decided with Pearson Vue. He said that it was an administrative decision because the pass rate was so low, so it would not be an issue changing that. He also mentioned that Section 940 (c) needs some review because if they applied, they should not have to resubmit if they already submitted an application, but they should pay a fee.

Member Chip Lindley discussed out of state applicants and how they should make it equal to the qualifications of California. He mentioned that the current language in the regulations for an out of state person is subjective to seem as though the person may be exempt from the state process and it is easier for out of state people to obtain their license.

Chairperson Al Adams asked for the subcommittee to discuss the issue and bring it back to the Committee.

B. AES Forms

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Member Shelley Merrell to discuss forms. Member Shelley Merrell asked if they wanted to keep the sprinkler inspections, five year and annual on two forms or condense them in one form.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that, as of right now, the regulations say that it is two separate forms, but it does not mean it cannot be changed. He also asked Member Shelley Merrell to send out all the forms to the Committee Members to review.

C. Partial Sprinkler Systems Follow-up

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that James Carver brought up the issue about partial sprinkler systems, so the Office of the State Fire Marshal assigned staff to look into it. He discussed that there are a lot of partial sprinkler systems (6 or less heads). They want to know if a partial system would have to comply with the regulations and the NFPA standards for installation and repair. The second issue was, if there was a stand-alone system, would they have to comply with the annual maintenance requirements that are outlined in Title 19. South Bay FPO recommended some type of exemption for those systems from the annual requirement. Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that Mike Goth is looking into this and he would present at the next meeting.

D. Continuing Education Units

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Kemiko Tolon to talk about Continuing Education Units. Kemiko Tolon mentioned that there is a IB bulletin that list the dates of when the Continuing Education Units are due and they are due starting March of 2022. She mentioned that there is an option to upload their Continuing Education Units certificate on their online application.

Amber Barrios asked if there was something on GovMotus that tells the people when their Continuing Education Units are due.

Kemiko Tolon mentioned that is something they are looking to add to GovMotus.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Member Jason McBroom was going to talk about NFPA 770 New System, but he was not present, so Chairperson Al Adams asked to table it for next meeting.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Chip Lindley asked if Joe Konefal was going to be heading up enforcement for fitter certification and Chairperson Al Adams said, yes.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vahe Zohrabian mentioned that the Information Bulletin 18-011 was issued by Office of the State Fire Marshal on December 20, 2018, for Arc Flashes and according to this document (page 2), regulations need to be revised on page 39. He also mentioned that almost all Continuing Education Unit courses approved by Office of the State Fire Marshal do not have the standards of ANSI/IACET, why are they still in regulations? He asked that if open book test were voted by the committee and passed, if it can be added to the regulations. He also mentioned that the physical address of a person or the mandatory hours should not restrict a qualified individual from having a chance to be evaluated. He mentioned that the regulations are controversial and unfair for not allowing qualified individuals to work and earn a living and any other trade or profession is rewarding and encouraging for advancement and accomplishment, not punishing or restricting. Lastly, he suggested templates or study guides be prepared by OSFM for test, NFPA books are costly and thousands of pages, this can be a hardship for a worker, which the standard applies to any governmental agency.

VI. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

It was moved by Member Stanley Smith to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Member Chip Lindley. Chairperson Al Adams adjourned the meeting at 11:59 A.M. PDT.