



STATE FIRE MARSHAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 28, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time)

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Dysart, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CALSAFE)
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen Company
Randy Rousseau, La Sierra Fire Equipment
Jamie Knowles, Amerex
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
J.R. Nerat, Badger/Kidde
Robert Calderon, Kaiser Permanente
Al Minicola, Suppression Pro
Frank Gardner, Stanford University

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Santos, Imperial Beach Fire Safety Services
Chris Hoiland, Orange County Fire Protection Company
Anthony Romero, Kern County Fire Department

OSFM STAFF

Jeffrey Schwartz, Chairperson, OSFM
Daniel Berlant, OSFM
Al Adams, OSFM
Kevin Chan, OSFM
Perry Goth, OSFM
Vikkie Raby, OSFM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and logistics briefing

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) and gave a welcoming and logistics briefing.

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

All individuals present and on the telephone introduced themselves. Roll was taken and a quorum was present by 8 of 12. Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz determined that a quorum of Committee members was present.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting. Darrell Hefley made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written and it was seconded by Randy Dysart. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion carried and the minutes were approved.

C. Announcements

Chief Al Adams welcomed everyone to the new virtual meeting platform and stated we will continue using for all future meetings due to the COVID restrictions. He also mentioned that Microsoft Teams may also be utilized for future meetings. He provided an update regarding delays in processing of licensing and response times due to teleworking status for OSFM staff. He also thanked everyone for their patience while we are adjusting to the new normal. Chief Al Adams also shared with the Committee that Governor Newsom has appointed Chief Mike Richwine as the State Fire Marshal, and Chief Wendy Collins as the Assistant State Fire Marshal.

Chief Daniel Berlant discussed the upcoming proposed fee increases and briefly explained the necessity of the increases. Essentially, the expenditures for the Division have exceeded the generated yearly revenue and we have no alternative but to raise fees. He updated the Committee on the status of GovMotus improvements that are coming over the next year, including online payment option.

II. OLD BUSINESS

California Code of Regulations, Title 19 and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 10 Review Update

Jamie Knowles stated the workgroup has not yet met due to the COVID pandemic. The meeting will be scheduled and the workgroup will be notified.

Standard Signature vs. Tag Signature

Discussion regarding whether a "tag" signature should be allowed in lieu of a "legal" signature due to space constraints on the tag. Chairperson Jeff Schwartz indicated that he will look into this and will work with Randy Dysart to draft language regarding tag signature as well as digital signature in place of a wet signature. They will bring back to the Committee for review at the next meeting.

Language Test and Reason for Update Regulations Package 2020

Chairperson Jeff Schwartz states the OSFM is aiming for November for public comment on this package. OSFM is still determining whether the language clean-up will move forward with the proposed fee schedules as one package or whether they will be submitted separately. If submitted separately, it will prevent any language comments from delaying the proposed fee schedule updates and vice versa. Chairperson Jeff Schwartz will keep the group apprised of the progress of this decision.

Reciprocal Agreement Language

Randy Dysart feels the current reciprocal agreement language is too vague and allows loopholes for companies to obtain an agreement from one company but actually take their services to another company. Language needs to be added to clarify what a reciprocal agreement is. A discussion is needed whether a company should be required to utilize services from the agreement company only, or if they are able to have work performed by an alternate company without an existing agreement on file with the OSFM. Chairperson Jeff Schwartz and Randy Dysart will work on developing language and bring back to the Committee for review and discussion.

Electronic Equipment Fires

JR Nerat stated there is language regarding delicate electronic equipment in NFPA 10, but no definition of such exists. In theory, any piece of computer equipment could be classified as delicate electronic equipment. JR Nerat and Darrell Hefley will work to develop definition and bring back to the Committee for review and discussion.

Exchange Package Workgroup

This workgroup will be scheduled to meet. The group will include Jamie Knowles, Randy Rousseau, Edie Wade, and Chairperson Jeff Schwartz.

Development of Dry Chemical Analysis by a Third Party

It was discussed amongst the Committee and agreed to table this matter to next year when an invite could be extended to the company to give a demonstration/presentation to the group in person.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Jamie Knowles brought the Element Fire Extinguisher issue to the attention of the group. This is an aerosol product that is being sold online and being brought and shipped into California. It is not UL listed and has not been through any of the approved testing for sales in California that we are aware of. It was suggested that the OSFM consider this issue and take appropriate actions. Chairperson Jeff Schwartz stated he will review and discuss with his Supervisors regarding the best way to address this.

IV. OPEN FORUM

There was no open forum comment.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (PDT). Motion to adjourn was made by Edie Wade, Seconded by Jamie Knowles, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:46 a.m. (PDT).

DRAFT