
AUTOMATIC EXTINGUISHER SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026, 9AM-12PM

Hybrid Committee Meeting



Meeting Location:

California Natural Resources Building

Office of the State Fire Marshal

715 P St, Sacramento, CA 95814

2nd Floor, Room 02-221

Zoom Meeting ID: 878 9009 7820

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brice Bennett, Committee Chairperson and Division Chief for Engineering and Investigations, OSFM

Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District

Jose Colin, Suisun City Fire Department

Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California

David Karrick, California American Fire Sprinkler Association (CAFSA)

James Feld, University of California, Berkeley (retired)

Randy Scoville, California State University (Alternate for Travis Tyler)

Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment Company

Dave Pelton, National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED) (Alternate for Allen Quirk)

Steven Miles, Local 483 (Alternate for Peter Hulin)

Wayne Weisz, American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA)

Kim Stocking, Advanco Fire Protection (Alternate for Vahe Zohrabian)

David Lewandowski, California Association of Life Safety & Fire Equipment (CALSAFE/AFSA) (Alternate for Matthew McCarrick)

Richard Eyssallenne, Black Bird Fire Protection

Brian Hutto, Schmidt Fire Protection

Amber Barrios, Associated Compliance & Training

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ken Kwong, Sacramento City Fire Department

Chad Richardson, Los Angeles Fire Department

Travis Tyler, California State University

James Knowles, Amerex

Allen Quirk, National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED)

Peter Hulin, National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA)

Vahe Zohrabian, California Fire Protection Coalition

Matthew McCarrick, California Association of Life Safety & Fire Equipment (CALSAFE)

Shelley Merrell, Integrated Fire & Safety

Kyle Howeel, Kimble & Co.

Jeff Dixon, Sprinkler Fitters Local 483

OSFM STAFF

Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Patricia Rock, Committee Co-Chairperson and AES Program Coordinator
Terence Liszewski, FE Program Coordinator
Jenna Garcia, OSFM Code Development & Analysis
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel CalFire
Cortney Walker
Larry Godbout
Taylor Machado
Alexander Rapphahn
Chris Dale
Thomas Setnan

PUBLIC GUESTS

Alicia Karrick, Pye-Barker Fire & Safety	Liz Deutsch, General Underground Fire Protection
Shawn Gray, Lund Pearson McLaughlin Fire Protection.	Julie Eyssallenne, Black Bird Fire Protection
Jacqueline Wilmot	Harl Buckridge AAA Quality Services, Inc.
John Godkin, 3 Alarm Fire Protection	Eric Lee, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, Southern California.
John Saia, Fire Safety First	

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Rock at 9:05 AM. Co-Chairperson Rock reviewed Bagley-Keene requirements for committee members, meeting etiquette, and when the public attendees could make comments.

B. Committee Members Introduction and Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Alexander Rapphahn, and it was determined that a quorum (15 of 21) of members was present, two members arrived late.

C. Introduction of Non-Committee Members.

All non-committee members introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Minutes for November 10th, 2025.

Committee Co-Chairperson Patricia Rock asked for approval for the November 10th, 2025, meeting.

It was moved by Member Wayne Weisz to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Edie Wade. Motion was approved unanimously

E. Announcements and Division Updates

Chairperson Bennett thanked the committee members and public guests for attending and participating. They explained that they were attending virtually because they were at the International Code Council hearing in Hartford, Connecticut. Any ideas for the committee or for groups not currently represented on the committee should be sent to the AES inbox at aes@fire.ca.gov.

Larry Godbout stated that, based on industry requests, the program is working on a bulk payment process for the AES program. This will allow multiple applications to be collected and paid for in a single card transaction. When the process goes live, instructions will be sent out. Cortney Walker added that the process will allow for different application types to be added together for a bulk payment. The process has not been implemented on the live side of GovMotus yet, as they are still testing it. Once live, if anyone experiences issues with the bulk payment process, please let the program know so they can work with GovMotus to address any issues.

Chairperson Bennett reminded the committee that the sprinkler fitter licensure is still in place. Anyone installing, altering, or repairing sprinkler systems needs certification or registration. The program is happy to help any code officials or fire protection bureaus that need assistance with public license verification tools on GovMotus; they can reach out to the program. The division has created training for each program that can be given in person or virtually upon request.

Co-Chairperson Rock stated that the division is seeking participants for a workgroup to review and make recommendations for the employment letter requirement used to verify hours for the sprinkler fitter certification. Workgroups are not limited to committee members; anyone interested in joining should send a letter of interest to the AES inbox by May 1st. Selected participants will be notified of the details of the first meeting.

2. OLD BUSINESS

CEU Workgroup – Presenting Recommendations

Member Amber Barrios stated that the workgroup is recommending that the regulations be changed to require one CEU every year, instead of three every three years. This change would allow for continuous education, as intended by the regulations. It would also prevent members of the industry from taking all their required training at the end of the three-year cycle. Some CEU providers have classes that award more than one CEU, so the certifications awarded by the class should be accepted for up to 36 months after taking a class. CEU providers would submit a list of all the certifications issued over the previous year directly to CALFIRE. This would allow for certification validation by the program. The changes would help improve the integrity of the certification system, reduce the administration burden on CALFIRE, and ensure that CEU providers maintain accurate and accountable records. This would also help prevent instances of falsified CEU being submitted.

Member Wayne Weisz asked if the list submitted by the providers would be in addition to the sprinkler fitters entering their CEUs on the renewal applications or if it would replace them. Member Amber Barrios replied that it would be in addition. Member David Karrick asked how this recommendation could be affected by SB1299. Co-Chairperson Rock replied that the office cannot comment on proposed legislation that

is in the current session. Chairperson Bennett added that the division must move forward with the regulation process regardless of proposed statute and will cross that bridge if needed when the time comes to see how it would affect current or proposed regulations. Alternate David Lewandowski shared his support for moving to requiring 1 CEU every year. **Co-Chairperson Rock asked for a member motion to approve these recommendations to the state fire marshal. It was moved by Member Wayne Weisz to approve the recommendations; motion seconded by David Karrick. Motion was approved unanimously**

A. 365 Day Licensure

Member Peter Hulin was not present at the meeting. Alternate Steven Miles stated that the intent of this proposal was to take some of the burden off the staff by having the renewals spread over a 365-day period. They asked if the staff thought that it would relieve some of the renewal burden or if it would conflict with the other licenses and certifications that the program oversees. Co-Chairperson Rock replied that many of the program's renewal dates are in statute and that is why they still renew in the fall. Because the sprinkler fitter dates are not in statute, they have some flexibility. Input from the industry and discussion by the committee members can move this topic forward.

Member Amber Barrios stated that they thought that switching to a 365-day licensure would cause confusion for the cardholders; it is easier to have everyone renew and expire during the same period every year. Member David Karrick seconded Amber Barrios' opinion and stated that the intent of the regulation is to promote compliance and certification of those working in the industry, and anything that makes the regulations grayer would cause confusion for those working in the industry. The way it is now, one sprinkler fitter can ask another when their certification or registration expires, and they will always get the same answer. Changing to a 356-day licensure would cause confusion in the industry and make it easier for fitters to let their certification lapse. Alternate David Lewandowski and Public Guest Bill Norwood voiced their support for David Karrick's statement.

B. Workgroup Presentation of NFPA 25 2026 adoption with amendments

Member David Karrick stated that at the last meeting they presented their recommended amendments to the committee, and they received comments from Member James Feld. The work group met with Mr. Feld to go over their comments and concerns. They were able to address all the topics brought up and thin down some of their original recommendations to better meet the intent of having minimal amendments. The intent of the amendments was to allow for swift adoption of future standards. They started with eight pages of amendments and got it down to three. Going forward, they would adopt the 2026 edition of NFPA 25 with an ongoing workgroup to review future standards as they are being updated and can then be quickly adopted. They are presenting the updated amendments to the committee for

any questions, comments, or concerns. Alternate Steven Miles added that they spent a lot of time working on this with the goal of having a short list of amendments from the prior California edition of NFPA 25, which was based on 2011 standards. The farther they get away from 2011, the farther California falls behind national standards. They are in favor of going to the national standard with amendments.

Co-Chairperson Rock asked for a member to motion to approve these recommendations to the state fire marshal. **It was moved by Member Amber Barrios to approve the recommendations; motion seconded by Jason McBroom. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Member David Karrick asked for a new workgroup to be formed to carry out the NFPA 25 2026 adoption through the regulation process.

Co-Chairperson Rock asked for a member to motion to create a new workgroup for the NFPA 25 2026 adoption process. **It was moved by Member David Karrick to approve the creation of a new workgroup; motion seconded by Steven Miles. Motion was approved unanimously.**

3. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

4. ROUNDTABLE

Member David Karrick asked if any committee members had questions or comments about SB1299. They personally have concerns about codifying 30 hours of CEUs over 3 years. It is a bit of an overreach with what they are trying to accomplish with SB1299, and it could make it difficult for the committee to recommend future changes regarding CEU regulations. The current requirements don't promote continuous education, and codifying that could make changing it in the future difficult.

Chairperson Bennett added that the most appropriate way to discuss or share comments on pending legislation is to see the author of the bill or reach out to local elected officials. Member Randy Roxson asked Mr. Karrick to reach out to them about any exemptions or amendments they would like to propose; they are more than happy to discuss it with them.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Guest Steven Lamb asked if there were any provisions for reservist members of the military to have their CEU requirements waived while on deployment. Co-Chairperson Rock replied that there is protection provided to service members who are deployed. If they have any questions, they can contact the AES inbox, and they will assist anyone through that process. Member Amber Barrios stated that they work with several fitters who are currently deployed and they can complete online CEUs without issues. Public Guest Steven Lamb replied that combat situations can prevent

or limit access to those online classes. Co-Chairperson Rock added that any service member experiencing issues with their CEUs while deployed should contact the AES inbox.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

July 22nd, 2026, 9am-12pm PST
Office of the State Fire Marshal
5th Floor, OSFM McKittrick Conference Room 512
37800 Kilroy Airport Way, Long Beach CA 90806

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Edie Wade to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Member Amber Barrios; all in favor of adjournment. Co-Chairperson Rock adjourned the meeting at 9:37 AM. PDT.