



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
June 03, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Zoom Meeting Conference Call
Meeting ID: 957 3451 0509

COMMITTEE GOAL

To provide a means of communication between the Office of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of industry, the public and the fire service; and to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulations and intended future action.

OSFM STAFF

Al Adams, Committee Chairperson, OSFM
Daniel Berlant, OSFM
Kemiko Tolon, OSFM
Brice Bennett, OSFM
Mike Goth, OSFM
Elena Rich, OSFM
Kevin Chan, OSFM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Allen Quirk, CALSAFE
Bruce Lecair, NFSA
Wayne Weize, AFSA
Chip Lindley, Lindley Fire Protection
Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District
Stan Smith, Local 483
Jamie Knowles, Amerex
James Feld, University of California, Berkeley (retired)
Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection
Darrell Hefley, CALSAFE (alternate)
Jeff Awtrey, California American Fire Sprinkler Association (CAFSA)

Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment

Bryan Jonson, West Sacramento Fire Department

PUBLIC GUESTS

Randy Dysart, CALSAFE

Shelly Merrill

I. Call to Order

a. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Adams, at 9:30 a.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) on June 03, 2020.

b. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Elena Rich and Chairperson Adams determined that a quorum of members was present. All attendees introduced themselves.

c. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Stan Smith and seconded by Wayne Weize to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 29, 2020. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

d. Announcements

Chief Daniel Berlant announced that the Governor appointed Chief Mike Richwine as the State Fire Marshal.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that due to the pandemic, they had to close the front reception to the State Fire Marshal's office at the Harvard location. He mentioned that it will remain closed until further notice. He also mentioned that 80 percent of employees are working from home and the other 20 percent of employees are coming into the office, but they are still moving forward to keep the work going.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that the Governor issued an executive order N-63-20 that can be found on the Governor's website. It refers to a section regarding Automatic Extinguishing Systems – Sprinkler Fitter program. He mentioned that it was requested that two things will occur – late fees to be extended for 60 days until June 30th and all licenses to be extended to expire until August 30th.

Stan Smith asked if the extended expiration date was for all licenses or just Journeymen license?

Chairperson Al Adams clarified that it was for all Sprinkler Fitter licenses.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that Pearson Vue has also had a few problems because of COVID-19. Due to social distancing, they had to close some of their offices.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that they are going through a mission base budgeting exercise with the Department of Finance to review the program's fees. They do not have numbers yet, but they are working on bringing numbers by September.

Mike Goth commented that during an inspection for a Pre-Engineering System licensing, he found that most companies have a manufacture license that only certifies them for three years and then they must renew. He mentioned that the way their section is written in Title 19, which would be 905 Subsection B, 3, and A for the initial application for a Type 2 A license, they have to submit documentation that states that they have certification for the manufacturers for the system they want to work on. The problem is that you go to 905.1, which is the renewal for the license, they are not required to submit any of that material, so what they have is a loophole, and they currently have a licensee that does not have any manufacturer certification. They currently have a Type 2 license, but they do not have any certification from manufacturer stating that they are allowed to work on the systems. Mike Goth also commented that Chairperson Al Adams wanted him to bring this issue to the Committee, so that they can look at this issue and see how they would like to address it.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that the certifications expire after three years, so to stay compliant, should they recertify them to make sure they are compliant with their certifications. He asked the Committee for suggestions.

Jamie Knowles mentioned that they would need to have a separate discussion regarding this issue.

Chairperson Al Adams said to add this issue to the Agenda for next meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. AES Form Update

Bruce Lecair mentioned that they met their deadline and the forms are in the hands of the staff. He also volunteered to help Chief Greg Anderson to review the amendments.

Allen Kirk asked to consider adding a customer signature line on the forms.

Bruce Lecair introduced Shelly Merrill to talk about the new form for Suppression System Inspection. Shelly Merrill mentioned that they added protected hazards to the form because Chief Greg Anderson recommended it.

Allen Kirk asked if the new form was used instead of form AES 22. Shelly Merrill said that was correct – the new form is replacing form AES 22.

Jaime Knowles commented that the new form should be limited to clean gas engineer type of systems and not pre-engineer. He recommended that pre-engineer be taken off the form.

Chairperson Al Adams asked the committee if they wanted to take the next step, or if they needed to review the forms. Bruce Lecair mentioned that he thinks the forms are ready to be handed over to the State Fire Marshal staff.

Chairperson Al Adams asked for the Committee to send their comments to Bruce Lecair.

Chairperson Al Adams asked if the Committee wanted to make a motion to move forward with the forms for the State Fire Marshal's staff to review. Bruce Lecair made a motion to move forward with the forms and Allen Quirk second the motion.

Chairperson Al Adams asked Bruce Lecair to send him any comments that they come up with.

b. Title 19, Chapter 5.5 clean-up

Chip Lindley had items to address to the Committee to get feedback. He talked about Section 945, paragraph B item number 3, regarding qualifications.

Stan Smith mentioned that if the state they are coming from has a required state license, and the exam is similar to California state license, then they will not be required to take the California exam.

Chairperson Al Adams asked Kemiko Tolon if there were out of state applications that had out of state licenses and how did she handle them.

Kemiko Tolon said that she goes by the regulations and requires them to have a California or Federally Approved Program, then they are approved to take the exam.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that if they can show proof of their certifications, then they can take the exam, since it shows they have their 7,000 hours.

Chip Lindley mentioned Section 937 regarding trainee certification. He asked if a year as a trainee would have to be consecutive or can their time be split.

Stan Smith mentioned that the year should start when they apply.

Chip Lindley discussed section 938 Apprentice registration. He mentioned if it was necessary for a contractor to provide a letter from their employer to confirm employment, since they have to be employed to get into an Apprenticeship program. No one in the Committee opposed for the proof of employment letter to be taken out, so Chip asked for that part to be taken out.

Chairperson Al Adams asked if the Committee was done with 5.5 cleanup recommendations.

Chip Lindley said that they were.

Chip Lindley makes a motion to submit the 5.5 cleanup recommendations and Wayne Weize second the motion.

c. Continuing Education Units

Chairperson Al Adams introduced Kemiko Tolon to talk about Continuing Education units. Kemiko Tolon mentioned that the CEUs were extended to 2022. She also mentioned that there are 11 providers and 3 in the queue and several of the current providers have added online classes. The new provider criteria have been updated and posted, which includes, submission guidelines for online courses and guidelines for courses to meet California adopted standards regulations codes and additions.

Kemiko Tolon also mentioned that an addition was made to the provider list which allows Sprinkler Fitters to submit up to 10 hours of safety courses toward their Continuing Education Units for the three-year period, but no more than 10 hours for that period.

Chairperson Al Adams made a correction to the Continuing Education Units announcements and mentioned that Continued Education Units have not been approved to be extended to 2022, but they are working on it.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. AES Committee Member Membership

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that the AES Committee member's membership expires on October of 2020, so for the people requesting to stay on the Committee, must request in writing.

Kevin Chan said that they need nomination letters address to Chief Mike Richwine.

Chairperson Al Adams said to send the letters to Kemiko Tolon by August 1st.

Kemiko Tolon mentioned that you need wet signatures.

Chairperson Al Adams mentioned that Committee members can also add an alternate.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Bruce Lecair asked if Chairperson Al Adams wanted to report on NFPA 25 and publishing to California edition. Chairperson Al Adams said that they reviewed past documents and they are working to take it to legal.

Jeff Awtrey discussed the issue about the Apprenticeship program certification taking a while to obtain proof of completion.

Chairperson Al Adams said that they would need to take the issue to the 5.5 cleanup group and add it to the regulations.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Stan Smith and second by Chip Lindley. Chairperson Al Adams adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time).