



**CALFIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee
March 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Office of the State Fire Marshal
2251 Harvard Street, Sacramento CA 95819
First Floor, Redwood Conference Room**

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

Thomas Campbell, Committee Chairperson, OSFM
Al Adams, OSFM
Kemiko Tolon, OSFM
Patricia Setter, OSFM
Jeffrey Schwartz, OSFM
Vikkie Raby, OSFM
Kevin Chan, OSFM
Dan Scott, OSFM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Darrell Hefley, CAL SAFE (alternate)
Randy Dysart, CAL SAFE (alternate)
Bruce Lecair, NFSA
Wayne Weize, AFSA
Chip Lindley, Lindley Fire Protection
Jason Hudgins, Walschon Fire Protection
Jason McBroom, Alpine Fire Protection District
Steve Fox, Local 483 (alternate)
Jeff Awtery, Marquee Fire Protection
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
James Feld, University of California, Berkeley

Randy Roxson, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California
Bryan Jonson, West Sacramento Fire Department
Stan Smith, Local 483
Jamie Knolls, Amerex

MEMBERS ABSENT

Allan Quirk, CAL SAFE
Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation
Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department

PUBLIC GUESTS

Vahe Zohrabian, California Fire Protection Coalition
Bahman Brian Shahangian, California Fire Protection Coalition
John Holmes, Local 709
Rik Drury, Local 709

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thomas Campbell, at 9:22 a.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) on March 20, 2019.

II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves. Roll call was conducted by Chairperson Thomas Campbell who determined that there was a quorum of members present. There were two new members to the Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) Advisory Committee: Jaime Knolls of Amerex representing Manufacturers and Distributors and Randy Roxson of Sprinkler Fitters Association of California representing Associations. The Committee still has a vacant position for a Fire Service representative from Southern California.

Chairperson Thomas Campbell announced that he was now chairing the Committee. He and the Committee thanked the previous Chair, Jeffrey Schwartz, for his dedication, diligence and service to the program and noted that Jeffrey Schwartz would remain as a technical advisor to the AES Program.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Edie Wade and seconded by Jeff Awtery to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on December 12, 2018. After a comment from Randy Dysart that the list of members needed updating, the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. NFPA 25 Work Group Update

The chairs of the three Workgroups reported on their progress. Bruce Lecair (Chapters 1-4, 14,15, and annex Workgroup) scheduled their first meeting and distributed forms for tracking. James Feld (Chapters 5,6,7 and 13 Workgroup) has completed a worksheet comparing the updates and will be holding meetings shortly. Steve Fox (Chapters 8-12 Workgroup) is planning their first meeting and how to divide up duties.

Finalized committee formation is:

Bruce Lecair, Randy Roxson, Jason Hudgins, Darrell Hefley, Jack Thacker, Edie Wade (alt)

James Feld, Jason Hudgins, John Holmes, Wayne Weize, Todd Golden, Allan Quirk, Jeff Awtery (alt)

Steve Fox, Chip Lindley, Jose Colin, Randy Dysart, Edie Wade, Bryan Jonson (alt)

Dan Scott is the contact to assist with scheduling teleconferences.

Chairperson Thomas Campbell is working on getting copies of NFPA 25, both the 2017 edition and 2020 draft edition, in MS Word.

B. Clean up Language for Chapter 5.5

A motion was made by Wayne Weize and seconded by Randy Dysart to establish a workgroup to suggest changes to the current AES regulations as requested in the 12/2018 meeting. The Committee approved the motion unanimously. Chip Lindley volunteered to chair the AES Chapter 5.5 regulations workgroup. Committee members who volunteered to participate in this workgroup were Wayne Weize, James Feld, Jeff Awtery, Steve Fox, Randy Roxson, Randy Dysart, Darrell Hefley, John Holmes and Edie Wade as an alternate.

Vahe Zohrabian of the California Fire Protection Coalition noted that Jeffrey Schwartz had previously sent a letter announcing vacancies on the committee and ask to receive more information on how to submit an application.

V. OPEN FORUM

Randy Dysart commented that regulations for specialty systems, such as restaurant systems, should be submitted for discussion for the next meeting.

Chairperson Thomas Campbell noted that hundreds of applications for Sprinkler Fitter certifications and renewals have been submitted and are being processed. GOVMotus has been updated to simplify renewals. Jeff Awtery suggested that OSFM post guidelines, step-by-step instructions, or a timeline for applicants to better understand the renewal process. Dan Scott informed the committee that applicants can expect 4-6 weeks for payments to be processed and sent to OSFM. Chairperson Thomas Campbell commented that OSFM staffing levels are not sufficient to guarantee expedited processing.

Guidelines for continuing education were requested by the Chip Lindley.

Questions about the renewal timing were asked by Steve Fox. Chairperson Thomas Campbell noted that the renewal process is in statute as July 1 for the first day of the certification year, regardless of when a certification was first issued.

Bahman Brian Shahangian of the California Fire Protection Coalition noted that they have filed an injunction against the OSFM. He stated that the process for approval is confusing, information is difficult to obtain and there is not sufficient staff to handle this. His comment was noted for the record.

Chairperson Thomas Campbell and several committee members discussed discrepancies in the elevator code. This topic will be added to Open Forum for the next meeting. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai of San Francisco Fire Department may be invited to present at this meeting, or may send further advise to Committee members.

Kemiko Tolon explained that people should directly email her about issues with email addresses on GOVMotus.

Chip Lindley note that, in the past, the AES Committee has contributed to updates to the California Fire Code adoption. Jeffrey Schwartz said that the latest request for input went forward when this Committee was not in session. The Committee will likely be asked for input next in late 2020.

Wayne Weize requested that additional accommodations for Spanish-speaking applicants go forward. OSFM updated the Committee on the development of the certification exam in Spanish.

Randy Dysart noted that information on Continuing Education was unclear as there are no providers listed on the OSFM website. Jeffrey Schwartz clarified that both CEUs and CE Provider renewals are not due until 2021.

An information bulletin was requested by Steve Fox to (1) clarify the renewal dates for those who were certified in the 2017/2018 year and for (2) Continuing Education dates and requirements. Randy Roxson also noted that OSFM needs to create a section on the webpage for CEU requirements.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. OSFM will request the NFPA 25 2017 edition and NFPA 25, 2020 edition (draft language) in MS Word format from Ray Bizal for regulation review.
2. OSFM will consider issuing an informational bulletin to clarify renewal periods and the time frame for Continuing Education Providers.

VII. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2019 at the OSFM office, 2251 Harvard Street, Sacramento, CA 95815.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Stan Smith and seconded by Randy Dysart which the Committee approved unanimously. Chairperson Thomas Campbell adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m. (Pacific Daylight Time).