
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025

Committee Meeting Minutes



Meeting Location:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
5th Floor, OSFM McKittrick Conference Room 512
3780 Kilroy Airport Way, Long Beach CA 90806

Zoom Meeting Option

Meeting ID: 886 9711 8894

Passcode: FAAC

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

Chairperson Michael Huang provided the welcome and introduction.

B. Committee Member Introductions and Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was taken by Jinaki Bahati and determined that we had a quorum.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company
Travis Tyler – California State University
Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Joseph Cervantes – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE

Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department
Michael Galleano – Anaheim Fire and Rescue
Christopher Creamer – Underwriters Laboratories
Darryl Engel – Intertek Testing Laboratory
Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Jay Levy – Saf-Com Supply Inc.
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department
Tonya Woods – Kidde Global Solutions

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Lewis – Sabah International
Neil Lakomiak – Potter Electric Signal Company

GUESTS PRESENT

Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe
Adria Smith – CSG Consultations
Rick Cortina
Kevin Reinertson

OSFM STAFF

Michael Huang, Chairperson
Brice Bennett
Jena Garcia
Jinaki Bahati
Galileo Atalig
Ben Ho
Christopher Dale
Thomas Setnan

C. Introductions of Non-Committee Members

All attendees present introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2025 (Attachment 1)

Chairperson Michael Huang requested a motion for the approval of the meeting minutes. Member Joseph Cervantes motioned to approve the meeting minutes and member James Carver seconded. 14 out of 14 members present voted in approval of the meeting minutes without additional comments.

E. Announcements and Division Updates.

Chairperson Michael Huang introduced the newest Committee members, Tonya Woods, and Michael Galleano. Tonya Woods represents smoke alarm manufacturers and Michael Galleano represents the fire service. Chairperson Michael Huang informed the committee of George Barnes' retirement and his potential replacement. He also informed the committee that the Phone Line Emulator has been posted to the OSFM Information Bulletin website.

Chief Bennett informed the committee that his role as acting Division Chief will continue until a permanent hiring decision is made and that there are multiple Deputy State Fire Marshal positions that have opened in the division. Chief Bennett also informed the committee of the phenomenal turnout, in person and online, at the Battery Energy Storage System Symposium that was held at the Natural Resources Headquarters building a few weeks ago. The link to the recorded event was provided to the committee in the chat meeting. [Energy Storage Systems | OSFM](#)

2. OLD BUSINESS

None

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Office of the State Fire Marshal Listing Requirements for Tamper Switches (Attachment 2)

Chairperson Michael Huang informed the committee that currently tamper switches are not technically required to be California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) listed if they are electrically isolated from the fire alarm system. This is based on a clause in California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 19, Section 208(b)(3) which states that if a device is electrically isolated from the fire alarm control unit and connected through dry contacts or relays then it's not required to be OSFM listed. However, per CCR, Title 19 Section 204(d)(2), this only applies to devices that are considered "not essential to the function of the fire alarm system". Additionally, devices such as waterflow valves, other supervisory switches, door closers, holders, releasing devices, etc. are also not currently required to be OSFM listed. Chairperson Michael Huang asked for the committee's feedback if there are any issues out there regarding devices that are currently not listed by the OSFM, and if they can make a recommendation to the OSFM. Any recommendation would be evaluated and taken through the appropriate regulatory process.

Committee member Joseph Cervantes quoted various sections of NFPA 72 to make the claim that tamper switches should be considered essential. Committee member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai expressed two issues, one being the listing and the other being the supervision. He explained that while all valves must be electrically supervised, only fire alarm devices need to be OSFM listed, and does not apply to water flow switches, tamper switches, or any monitoring devices.

Committee member Shane Clary stressed that these devices should be OSFM listed for public safety and gave specific examples of these devices failing.

Committee member James Carver brought up the scenario for buildings with fire alarm systems that do not have smoke detection and must rely on the sprinkler systems for notification. In this scenario, the monitoring of the waterflow would be essential to the function and therefore tamper switches would be required to be OSFM listed for reliability. He emphasized the importance of supervision and reliability for sprinkler systems, noting that unsupervised water shutoff can lead to building fires.

The committee discussed the distinction between UL (Underwriters Laboratory) listing and certification. Member Christopher Creamer explained that UL certified devices undergo less rigorous testing than UL listed products.

Committee member Jay Levy advocated that waterflow and tamper switches should be OSFM listed because they are critical components to the system.

Committee member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai clarified that water flow switches are considered fire alarm initiating devices but are installed by sprinkler contractors rather than fire alarm technicians. He agreed fully that they are necessary, and they need to be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) but he does not agree that they need to be OSFM listed as well.

Committee member Shane Clary said that NFPA 72 considers tamper switches as fire alarm initiating devices and wants them to be required to be OSFM listed. Committee member Richard Roberts and Committee member Jay Levy agreed.

Committee member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai brought up the concern about expanding the scope of the BML Program. It would open the door for fire pumps, waterflow switches, all sprinkler monitoring devices, all gas detectors, clean agent and all other suppression systems, etc. to also require an OSFM listing. He stressed the burden that this would place on the manufacturers if the OSFM makes this assessment for tamper switches.

B. NFPA 72, 2028 Edition Potential Changes

Committee member Christopher Creamer provided updates on the first draft meetings for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 that was held in Salt Lake City. They have not reached a ballot stage yet and he suggested tabling this issue for the next Committee meeting after the first draft to point out some future pending changes. He brought up that they discussed a public input regarding the 24-hour battery tests for fire alarm systems and potentially clearing up the confusion regarding this test in the next edition of NFPA 72. Committee member Joseph Cervantes shared insights from the meetings, highlighting reorganization of chapters and the addition of UL references. Committee member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai mentioned his successful first draft submission to add NFPA 13R as a referenced standard in NFPA 72. This would allow for level one survivability in residential buildings protected by NFPA 13R. He brought up the previous code interpretation regarding the 24-hour battery tests for fire alarm systems, noting that while the interpretation allows for shorter tests, local fire code officials can still require the full 24-hours.

C. Fire Alarm Code Adoption Work Group Updates

Committee member Travis Tyler provided an update on the progress of several proposals that are being discussed in the Fire Alarm Code Adoption Work Group. He mentioned that the work group is discussing removing the outdated California amendments from section 907.6.4 to align with model code requirements.

Committee member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai reported that the group is working on clarifying section 907.2.3 requirements for voice systems in group E occupancies, with a meeting scheduled for the following day to finalize proposals for the 2025 intervention cycle.

Committee member Travis Tyler also reported proposals for section 907.5.2.4 regarding exterior audible alarm notification devices on school buildings, and section 907.2.3.6.1 for updates to smoke detector requirements.

Committee member Richard Roberts reported that the 2024 International Fire Code/ International Building Code (IFC/IBC) requirements for carbon monoxide (CO) detection were expanded but had unclear language, so it was rewritten by Jeff Shapiro to provide clearer, enforceable language in the 2027 IFC. The plan is to adopt this code section earlier. He is waiting for Chief Crystal Sujeski to send him the statutes relating to CO detection, so that he can review what's in the 2027 IFC to ensure there are no conflicts with the California statutes.

Committee member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai presented a proposal to remove the requirement for heat detectors in California buildings that are fully sprinklered per NFPA 13, arguing that

sprinklers serve as heat detection.

Committee member James Carver asked if there has been any discussion for requiring fire alarm designers and installers to be National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) certified in California, and he mentioned that the OSFM has the authority to require it, citing Assembly Bill 433, 2013. Committee member Shane Clary was also curious to see further discussion amongst the work group regarding this topic but also brought up some concerns for NICET certifications in his experience.

4. OPEN FORUM

None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 10:00AM – 12:00PM Pacific Time. More information will be available later.

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Michael Huang adjourned the meeting at 11:23AM.