
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

Hybrid Committee Meeting



Meeting Location:

California Natural Resources Agency
Office of the State Fire Marshal
715 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814
2nd Floor– Room 2-201

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

Michael Huang – Chairperson
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information
Gregory Cobabe – Division of the State Architect
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department
Travis Tyler – California State University
Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Michael Galleano – Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District
Christopher Creamer – Underwriters Laboratories
Darryl Engel – Intertek Testing Laboratory
Joseph Cervantes – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA)
Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant
Jay Levy – Main Fire and Security
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Lewis – Sabah International
Neil Lakomiak – Potter Electric Signal Company
Tonya Woods – Kidde Global Solutions

GUESTS PRESENT

Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe
Michael Tipton – Guest, affiliate unknown
Sean Kohl – Intertek Testing Laboratory
Akilan Anath – Santa Clara County Fire Department
Gary Morrison – University of California, San Francisco
Neil Jacob-Tolentino – San Francisco Fire Department
Rick Cortina – Retiree

OSFM STAFF

Michael Huang, Chairperson
Jinaki Bahati
Galileo Atalig
Ben Ho
Christopher Dale
Thomas Setnan
Brice Bennett
Crystal Sujeski
Jamie Sammut
Chrishana Fields

C. Introductions of Non-Committee Members

All attendees present introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes –February 3, 2025 (Attachment 1)

Motion by Member Richard Roberts, seconded by member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai to approve the February 3, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Announcements and Division Updates

Chief Bennett provided updates on the Building Materials Listing (BML) Program's implementation of bulk payment options and discussed ongoing efforts to potentially consolidate various licensing platforms across state agencies.

2. OLD BUSINESS

None

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Testing Concern of UL 985 Listed Combination Household Fire Alarm Control Units

Member Joseph Cervantes explained that there is ongoing litigation regarding communication bus failures in Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard 985 Listed Household Combination Fire Alarm and Burglary Systems, in which a short circuit can lead to failure of the system to alarm. Member Shane Clary recommended waiting for the litigation to conclude before taking further action since UL has not made changes to the products involved, and no recalls or warnings have been issued by UL or the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Member Richard Roberts concurred with the recommendation. There was no comment from UL regarding this matter.

B. Pre-installed Fire Alarm Systems in Energy Storage System (ESS) Trailers

Chairperson Michael Huang provided background on the issue, that ESS trailers are being shipped internationally into California, and the fire alarm systems that are preinstalled may or may not be California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) listed. Member Shane Clary concurred and stated that the issue is that a lot of these units are manufactured in China and are not UL listed nor OSFM listed. Member David Myers mentioned he has issues with these trailers, but that if the system is listed to UL9540, the standard requires that fire alarm systems, when pre-installed in these ESS trailers, must be installed per certain standards and may have already been validated to meet the International Fire Code (IFC) and NFPA 72 during the listing process. Chief Crystal Sujeski noted that the OSFM has an ESS workgroup that has some information posted. She focused on the main concern, that the fire alarm systems and devices used in these trailers may not be listed by the OSFM.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai questioned whether fire alarm systems are necessary for non-occupied trailers, suggesting that smoke/heat detection with off-site monitoring might be sufficient. He stressed that a fully-fledged fire alarm system is not required in the code. Member David Myers explained that while fire alarm systems are not specifically required for non-occupied trailers, larger energy storage farms often include fire detection and notification systems as part of a hazard mitigation analysis.

Member Joseph Cervantes raised concerns about the installation and oversight of these systems, particularly when they transit internationally and are installed by unlicensed international contractors with potentially unlisted fire alarm devices. Member Shane Clary stated that the OSFM has no jurisdiction overseas and cannot reliably enforce prefabricated trailers to use OSFM listed devices. Member Joseph Cervantes agreed, but that some oversight is needed for these trailers to ensure safety. Member David Myers stated that he has encountered some of these trailers, and inspected the installation and wiring diagrams, and found they were not installed in accordance with NFPA 72.

Chief Brice Bennett mentioned that this needs to be a larger conversation that includes the Automatic Extinguishing System (AES) Program, the California Contractors State Licensing Board (CSLB), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) along with the OSFM Code Development Analysis Division's ESS Workgroup for further discussion. Chief Crystal Sujeski mentioned this has been discussed in many other groups including the ESS Workgroup, the NFPA 855 technical committee, and in discussions for Chapter 12 of the 2027 California Fire Code (CFC). She reiterated that the only concern for the OSFM BML Program goes back to the state law of requiring fire alarm devices to be listed by the OSFM.

C. The Use of Heat Detectors in Lieu of Smoke Detectors, 2025 CFC, Section 907.4.3

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai raised concerns about replacing smoke detectors with heat detectors in specific fire safety functions, particularly for smoke doors and smoke dampers, noting that current code doesn't explicitly allow this substitution. Member Shane Clary highlighted a paradox where heat detectors might be allowed in some environments due to ambient conditions but could defeat the purpose of smoke-specific safety functions required

by code. Member James Carver shared his experience using heat detection in parking garages due to environmental conditions. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai mentioned that multi-criteria detectors could be used as an alternative solution to address nuisance alarms. Member Joseph Cervantes agreed with the issue and shared his experience dealing with this code section.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai made a motion to develop an OSFM Information Bulletin to address this issue and guide Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) on proper detector usage according to the CFC, Section 907.4.3. Member Joseph Cervantes seconded. The committee voted 13-0 in favor of developing the information bulletin, with Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai volunteering to chair the workgroup. Committee members Nanci Timmins, Shane Clary, Travis Tyler, Joseph Cervantes, James Carver, Gregory Cobabe, and Guest Rick Cortina volunteered to serve on the workgroup to develop the information bulletin.

D. The Use of Disable Buttons on Fire Alarm Control Panels

Member Joseph Cervantes explained that most fire alarm manufacturers allow disable buttons to test systems while occupied, but these should require AHJ approval. He brought up the issue because he has encountered many AHJs who were not aware that this functionality was being used. He suggested some possible solutions that would help prevent fire safety issues. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai cited NFPA 72, Section 26.5.4.1.3 which allowing this bypass during testing; however, he mentioned that clarity is needed to improve fire and life safety when using these functions, including having a timer, password protection, etc. Member Richard Roberts agreed that there is an issue. Member Shane Clary stated that most alarm companies use this bypass function, but they ensure that the system is back to normal after completion of work. Member James Carver agreed with the issue but believed that the best path forward would be to submit a public comment and modify NFPA 72.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai motioned that guidance be written in the form of an information bulletin by the OSFM. Member Joseph Cervantes Seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to proceed with drafting an information bulletin. Member Joseph Cervantes agreed to chair the task group, Members Travis Tyler, Gregory Cobabe, David Myers, Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, Shane Clary, and Nanci Timmins volunteered.

E. Fire Alarm Devices with Multiple Functions for Use as a Single Device

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai explained the benefits of dual-function devices in specific scenarios like elevator systems. The committee agreed to include this topic with the existing task group addressing smoke versus heat detection, and CFC 907.4.3.

4. OPEN FORUM

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided an update on NFPA 72, 2028 edition development, noting that a new Chapter 28 for temporary fire alarm systems is being developed and will be submitted as a public comment by June 3rd.

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that Code Development modified the Carbon Monoxide proposal and there will be a commission meeting held and the meeting details will be available on the Building Standards Commission website.

The group discussed the adoption timeline for NFPA 72, with confirmation that the 2028 edition will be adopted by the 2028 California Building and Fire Code and not the 2027 mid-cycle update.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai posed the question whether there are any UL 268 listed smoke detectors that can be used with UL 985 Household Fire Alarm Control units. Member Shane Clary stated that there is nothing that prevents it so long as the devices are listed for that use. Member David Myers brought up that the devices in question also have sounders built into the devices and the question is whether the sounders are listed to be used for occupant notification. The OSFM Building Materials Listing Program is still looking into this listing.

Member Shane Clary gave an update on NFPA 420. The second draft is done and will be released for final adoption next year. He asked if OSFM is monitoring it, and if the OSFM will be adopting it. Chief Crystal Sujeski confirmed that it is being monitored, and adoption will be considered.

Member Shane Clary asked about status of NFPA 25 adoption. Chief Brice Bennett gave an update that there are plans and ongoing discussions in the AES Advisory Committee to move toward national adoption of NFPA 25 with only two pages of California amendments, and the development of inspection, testing, and maintenance licensure requirements.

Member Joseph Cervantes gave an update that there is a new NFPA group that will be for certification for fire alarm designers.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Christopher Shimoaka asked if fire alarm devices still need to have a OSFM listing if devices are replaced or moved. OSFM Staff Ben Ho responded saying that the law only requires an OSFM listing for sale, marketing, or distribution of fire alarm devices. However, if a fire alarm device is replaced or moved, it should still meet the original intent and original plans at the time of installation. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai reiterated that a simple replacement or movement of a fire alarm device, that brings the building and system to the same condition as when it was approved and inspected, and covering the same area, no permit would be required, and thus no current OSFM listing would be needed. However, if a device is moved into a completely new area that changes the intent of the original plans, thereby triggering a permit, a current OSFM listing would be needed, although this is evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the AHJ.

Member Joseph Cervantes brought up the issue again about the OSFM listings' expiration date being on separate pages. Chairperson Michael Huang stated that it is being worked on.

Member Joseph Cervantes brought up the pending information bulletin that the OSFM is working on to reinstate. Chairperson Michael Huang stated that it is being worked on and under review.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Thursday, July 23, 2026, 9:00AM – 12:00PM (Pacific Time)
Office of the State Fire Marshal
5th Floor, OSFM McKittrick Conference Room 512
3780 Kilroy Airport Way, Long Beach CA 90806

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Member Dr. Shane Clary motioned to adjourn the meeting and member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM (Pacific Time).