
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

Hybrid Committee Meeting



Meeting Location:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Joseph Cervantes – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department
Jay Levy – Saf-Com Supply Inc.
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant
Christopher Creamer – Underwriters Laboratories
Darryl Engel – Intertek Testing Laboratory
Neil Lakomiak – Potter Electric Signal Company
Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department
Rick Lewis – Sabah International
Travis Tyler – California State University
Tonya Woods – Kidde Global Solutions
Michael Galleano – Anaheim Fire and Rescue

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Roberts - National Electrical Manufacturers Association

GUESTS PRESENT

Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe
Greg Cobabe – Division of State Architect
Sarah Zhang – Los Angeles City Fire Department

OSFM STAFF

Michael Huang, Chairperson
Jinaki Bahati
Galileo Atalig
Ben Ho
Larry Godbout
Christopher Dale
Jeffrey Schwartz
Jena Garcia

C. Introductions of Non-Committee Members

All attendees present introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2025 (Attachment 1)

Member Joseph Cervantes motioned to approve the meeting minutes, and Member Christopher Creamer seconded. 15 out of 15 Members present voted to approve the meeting minutes without additional comments and none objected.

E. Announcements and Division Updates

Chief Jeffrey Schwartz provided updates, including the promotion of Chief Brice Bennett to Division Chief for Fire Engineering Investigations, the appointment of Larry Godbout as the new Staff Services Manager I for licensing and certification, and the promotion of Thomas Setnan to Associate Governmental Program Analyst. Additionally, the division's hiring process has concluded, and Jennifer Reiss has been hired as a Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist, to fill Patricia Setter's position as the Flame Retardant Chemicals and Fabrics Program Coordinator, who recently retired back in July of this year.

2. OLD BUSINESS

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

Chairperson Michael Huang informed the committee that after further internal discussion it has been decided that Tamper Switches cannot be required to be listed by the Building Materials Listing (BML) program because they meet the electrical isolation exception requirements in Title 19, Section 208(b)(3)(A), (B), and (C). Member Shane Clary raised concerns about the potential need, by some Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs), to show listing numbers in drawings, suggesting a possible paradox in the decision. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai expressed his support with this determination by the OSFM. Member Joseph Cervantes mentioned that he understands there is some disagreement between AHJs and others in the fire alarm industry and will be pursuing regulatory change so that tamper switches are required to be listed by the BML Program. Ben Ho and Member James Carver emphasized the importance of clear communication to AHJs about the

voluntary nature of CSFM listings for these devices and they are already listed by the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL). The committee discussed potential confusion among jurisdictions about listing requirements, with some jurisdictions requiring listings while others do not. Additionally, the committee agreed to consider issuing an information bulletin to clarify the listing requirements, with Ben Ho suggesting this would be brought to Chief Bennett and the State Fire Marshal for approval, and we will update the committee at the next meeting.

B. NFPA 72, 2028 Edition Potential Changes

Member Christopher Creamer suggested postponing this topic till the next meeting. The ballot for the first draft meeting was due November 3, 2025, and it is too soon to share information coming out of the first draft without the ballot being posted.

C. Fire Alarm Code Adoption Work Group Updates

Member Travis Tyler gave updates on the Fire Alarm Code Adoption Workgroup, and discussed several code proposals, including updates to sections 907.5.2.4, 907.2.3.6.1, and 907.6.4, regarding outdoor horns, smoke detectors, and heat detectors in educational occupancies, and zoning. He mentioned they needed to include the new Principal Fire and Life Safety Officer from Division of State Architect (DSA). Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai presented a proposal to clarify code language regarding fire alarm systems in educational occupancies, which was approved and submitted for the 2025 intervening cycle. The workgroup also reviewed a minor revision to section 1010.2.13 regarding smoke or heat detectors in delayed egress areas. The committee discussed editorial changes to the 2028 Edition of National Fire Protection Association standard (NFPA) 72, focusing on pathway survivability and NFPA 13R systems. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai explained that public input was submitted to allow Level 1 survivability in buildings with NFPA 13R systems, which could be implemented in California before the 2028 edition. Chief Jena Garcia mentioned receiving a memo from the Building Standards Commission that state agencies are not allowed to propose early adoption changes because of Assembly Bill (AB) 130. She has redrafted the rationale to comply with AB130 to get this clarification change through.

The committee also briefly discussed proposals regarding Carbon Monoxide (CO) detection and gas detection. Chief Jena Garcia said the same redrafting of this rationale is required due to AB130, and that there was no guarantee that the Building Standards Commission will accept these proposals. Chief Jena Garcia shared the proposed changes to CO alarm code requirements, focusing on simplifying and clarifying the language to improve enforcement and safety. Chief Jena Garcia explained that these changes would be submitted to building standards for review, with additional justifications and rationales to be added to comply with AB130. Member Travis Tyler inquired about accessing the proposed changes document, but Jena clarified that these documents are not publicly available until reviewed by the regulatory agency. Member Tonya Woods raised a question about the applicability of these requirements to homes without a source of CO. Member Joseph Cervantes answered that it is in 2025 Editions of the California Fire Code (CFC) and asked Member Travis Tyler if the Fire Alarm Code Adoption Workgroup has concluded. Member Travis Tyler noted that their work for the intervening cycle is on a hiatus due to an October 1st deadline for proposals submitted to Chief Jena Garcia and Chief Crystal Sujeski, and with documents needing executive and legal team approval by

December 1st. All code adoption work groups have paused until January to focus on these proposals, after which they will restart and focus on triennial proposals. Chief Jena Garcia confirmed that the documents will be posted on the Building Standards website in mid to late February 2026, with public hearings scheduled for March or April, and encouraged participation to support the proposals.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Potential interference between the Fire Alarm audible notification and 2-Way Emergency Communication Systems' live voice communication

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai discussed a new proposal in NFPA 72, Chapter 24 that mandates coordination between two-way communication system designers and fire alarm system designers to avoid conflicts between audible signals and live conversations. The requirement, which passed as a first revision, encourages designers to coordinate the location of call boxes and fire alarm horns to maintain intelligibility, particularly in areas like elevator lobbies. Member Christopher Creamer announced plans to collaborate with Underwriters Laboratory (UL) Solutions and other industry stakeholders to support this initiative, while Member Shane Clary emphasized the importance of allowing the process to proceed through the NFPA system, noting that the next major votes would occur in 2027. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai explained that local jurisdictions can implement their own amendments to address these issues and shared that the City of San Francisco is moving to the 2025 code cycle with such amendments.

Member Jay Levy posed the question: Would AHJs accept plans with only strobes in an area to address the conflicting noise concerns? Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai confirmed this would be acceptable in his jurisdiction if audibility requirements are still met. Member David Myers raised concerns about reducing audible devices, noting potential issues with hearing-impaired individuals, and suggested a system that could adjust audibility based on proximity to area of refuge panels.

B. Power Supply for Smoke alarms with integral strobe

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai explained that while new construction must comply with backup power requirements, existing buildings can use CSFM-listed local smoke alarms with integral strobes that don't need to be connected to a building backup system, as per NFPA 72. The discussion centered on whether strobes in hearing-impaired units should be powered by emergency systems, with Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai advocating for flexibility in existing buildings where backup power solutions are impractical and supported the fact that only new construction needs to meet this requirement in CFC, 907.2.11.6.

4. OPEN FORUM

The committee also addressed an outdated information bulletin on fire alarm control unit replacements, which Member Rick Lewis noted was causing approval issues due to its removal from the OSFM's website. Chairperson Michael Huang mentioned that Chief Crystal Sujeski was working on redrafting the bulletin to update the contact information and date.

Member Shane Clary provided an update on the status of the 24-hour battery testing

requirements in NFPA 72, noting that the proposal had been approved by the technical committee but was still in the process of becoming finalized.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai raised concerns about conflicting interpretations between some AHJs and the NFPA 72, Chapter 18 Committee regarding synchronization of visual appliances. He will request it to be an agenda item for the next advisory committee meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 3:00PM – 5:00PM (Pacific Time)
Pechanga Resort & Casino, White Sage Meeting Room, 2nd floor
45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, CA 92592

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Member Shane Clary motioned to adjourn the meeting and Member Christopher Creamer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM (Pacific Time).