
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Hybrid Committee Meeting



Meeting Location:

Pechanga Resort & Casino
White Sage Meeting Room – 2nd Floor
45000 Pechanga Parkway
Temecula, CA 92592

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
Joseph Cervantes – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department
Jay Levy – Main Fire & Security
Christopher Creamer – Underwriters Laboratories
Darryl Engel – Intertek Testing Laboratory
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
Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturer's Association

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tonya Woods – Kidde Global Solutions
Neil Lakomiak – Potter Electric Signal Company
Michael Galleano – Anaheim Fire and Rescue
Gregory Cobabe – Division of the State Architect

GUESTS PRESENT

Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail Safe
Greg Rogers – National Fire Protection Association
Joe McElvaney – Hiller Fire
James Mather – Johnson Controls
Jason Dupuis – Cintas Fire Protection
Maria Marks – Siemens
Jason Harris – NAPCO Security Technologies, Inc.
Timothy O'Malley – California Building Standards Commission
Kevin Reinertson – Retired
Greg Anderson – Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
John Bennett – Bennett Fire and Security
Neil Tolentino – San Francisco Fire Department

OSFM STAFF

Vickie Sakamoto – Assistant State Fire Marshal
Andrew Henning – Assistant Deputy Director
Brice Bennett – Division Chief
Crystal Sujeski – Division Chief
Larry Godbout – Supervisor I
Galileo Atalig – Mechanical Engineer
Jinaki Bahati – Analyst II
Christopher Dale – Analyst II
Thomas Setnan – Analyst II
Ben Ho – Retired Annuitant
David Castillo – Retired Annuitant

C. Introductions of Non-Committee Members

All attendees present introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes –November 5, 2025 (Attachment 1)

Member Christopher Creamer motioned to approve the meeting minutes, and Member Joseph Cervantes seconded. 13 out of 13 Members present voted to approve the meeting minutes without additional comments, and none objected.

E. Announcements and Division Updates

Chief Andrew Henning provided updates regarding State Fire Marshal, Chief Daniel Berlant's expectations for the Department and set priorities for Fire Engineering and Investigations. Additionally, the committee was informed that the Division has been looking into alternative software programs that meet the needs of the Division as well as the industry.

2. OLD BUSINESS

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

Chairperson Michael Huang gave background on this topic from last meeting regarding tamper switches. He explained that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) determined that tamper switches are not required to be OSFM listed. However, this led to broader discussion regarding waterflow switches. The OSFM has determined that water flow switches should be California listed based on definitions in California Code of Regulations Title 19, Section 204, and the California Building Code. He clarified that the regulatory change would require a formal process including a mandatory 45-day public comment period and would not be immediately enforceable until chaptered in Title 19. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai disagreed but stated that he was not in opposition to this change, and he posed the question about the broader implications, questioning whether all dry contact devices that generate alarm signals would need to be OSFM listed, specifically mentioning fire pumps and similar devices. Member Shane Clary expressed clear support for the OSFM's action. Member Richard Roberts stated that the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) supports the direction OSFM is taking, providing significant industry backing for the regulatory change. The listing requirement ensures devices meet California-specific performance and reliability standards, and the regulatory change will formalize existing industry practice. Chairperson Michael Huang noted that the industry impact is expected to be minimal as many waterflow switches are already OSFM listed.

B. NFPA 72, 2028 Edition Potential Changes

Member Christopher Creamer provided an update on the ongoing development of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 72, 2028 Edition, reporting that the second draft meeting is scheduled for August 5-8. He noted that public input is still being accepted and considered, and this topic should be tabled until then. Guest Jason Dupuis highlighted ongoing debates regarding the 24-hour battery testing requirements in Chapter 14 of NFPA 72, and the upcoming changes for that. Member Shane Clary noted the potential addition of a new Chapter 28 specifically addressing temporary fire alarm systems in construction spaces. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai also highlighted a significant change in Chapter 12.4 regarding survivability pathway level 1, which would expand requirements to include buildings protected by NFPA 13R, as well as NFPA 13.

Member Richard Roberts brought up an issue regarding Underwriter's Laboratory Solutions (UL) Standard 864, 11th Edition. He informed the committee that due to various issues, UL is not going to be testing to UL 864, 11th Edition, and they have reverted to UL 864, 10th Edition. The issue is that NFPA 72, 2025 Edition references UL 864, 11th Edition. He informed the committee that a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) has been proposed, to revise NFPA 72, 2025 Edition to correct this issue. Chairperson Michael Huang added that OSFM listings will not be affected by this issue since UL 864, 10th Edition, is still adopted by California.

The committee decided to table further discussion of NFPA 72, 2028 Edition for a

future meeting as the standard is still in active development with many changes pending. More concrete information will be available after the August second draft meeting.

C. Fire Alarm Code Adoption Work Group Updates

Member Travis Tyler reported that the next work group is scheduled to meet on March 17, 2026, and the workgroup has successfully submitted proposals for the intervening code cycle and now operates under a formal charter. He explained that the group is systematically reviewing California-specific amendments to determine which may have become obsolete as national codes have evolved. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai highlighted significant changes proposed for Group E occupancies in the California Fire Code, including changing the threshold for voice communication systems to over 100 children. He noted this represents a significant shift when enhanced communication systems are required in educational facilities. Member Richard Roberts noted a recommendation to the California Building Standards Commission for early adoption of Carbon Monoxide (CO) requirements from the 2027 International Fire Code and International Building Code, which would bring California ahead of the normal code cycle for CO detection. Chief Crystal Sujeski provided an overview of technical improvements the workgroup is pursuing, including cleanup language for zoning requirements and system annunciation. Member Travis Tyler noted that some proposals were submitted but they were not all moved forward due to constraints from Assembly Bill 130. The workgroup will continue reviewing California Amendments that may have become obsolete and will develop proposals for the 2027 code cycle.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Auxiliary Service Provider (ASP) Requirements in NFPA 72, 2025 Edition Section 26.2.11.3

Chief Vickie Sakamoto announced that the OSFM issued an Information Bulletin 26-002 regarding Auxiliary Service Provider (ASP) requirements, stating that NFPA 72, Section 26.2.11.3 is not enforceable at this time. Member Christopher Creamer explained that ASPs are part of the cellular pathway for alarm communications, serving as intermediaries between fire alarm systems and monitoring stations. He noted that NFPA 72, 2025 Edition included requirements for ASPs to be tested to some requirements UL827, however, UL827 is not designed for testing ASPs, creating an impossible compliance situation. Additionally, he reported that UL is developing a new standard, UL8555, specifically for ASP certification with completion targeted for December 1, 2026. He stated that a TIA is being prepared to change the effective date in NFPA 72, 2025 Edition to align with the availability of UL8555. Guest Jason Harris asked whether large corporate cloud infrastructure providers like Amazon Web Services would need to become UL-certified ASPs, highlighting the complexity of modern alarm communication systems and the need for clear definitions.

B. 2025 California Fire Code Section, 903.4.3, Audible and Visual Sprinkler Waterflow Alarms.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai explained that 2025 California Fire Code (CFC), Section 903.4.3 now requires exterior water flow alarm devices to be audible and visual, and it requires them to be powered by the Fire Alarm Control Unit (FACU), when present. He noted that the intent of these devices is for firefighters to locate fire department connections and risers quickly. He raised questions about whether a bell with a separate strobe would satisfy the requirement for an "audible and visual device," noting the interpretation challenge in the code language. Additionally, he posed questions on whether supervision by the FACU is required, and where the devices need to be installed. Member Joseph Cervantes added that if it is considered a notification device, it shall be supervised. Guest Jason Dupuis asked if there is a concern with putting these exterior devices on the same circuit as interior devices. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai stressed that they should be on separate notification appliance circuits (NAC). Member Jay Levy expressed concern about having two devices potentially generating conflicting signals if buildings have both bells (for water flow) and horn-strobes (for fire alarm) on the exterior, which could confuse first responders, and he questioned the need for these devices at all now that central stations locate the building for first responders. Member Shane Clary suggested reviewing the original International Code Council (ICC) proposal and testimony to understand the intent of the code changes. Member Richard Roberts identified the proposal as F74-21. He explained that the primary intent was to help first responders identify which building is in alarm in multi-building complexes, with the secondary benefit of aiding responders in noisy environments or for those with hearing impairments. Chief Crystal Sujeski added that proposal F73 was merged with F74 during the hearings and stated that the push for this code change was to include supervision.

4. OPEN FORUM

Member Joseph Cervantes brought up an issue with the Building Materials Listings not displaying the expiration date on all pages. He brought up a potential issue, if someone has an expired listing they can replace the second page. Chairperson Michael Huang agreed that this is an issue and will work on making the change so that all pages of Building Materials Listing sheets show the expiration date.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai identified an inconsistency between the 2025 California Building Code and California Fire Code Section 907.2.11.2.1.1 regarding requirements for licensed Group R-2.1 occupancies. He volunteered to chair a task group specifically focused on resolving this issue with a target of the 2027 code cycle. This will be a part of Chief Crystal Sujeski's all-encompassing Fire Alarm Code Adoption Work Group.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE:

A. May 5, 2026, 9:00AM – 12:00PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Second Floor, Conference Room 2-201
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

B. Member Shane Clary brought up the next scheduled meeting, in Sacramento, scheduled for April 23rd, 2026, directly conflicts with the ICC Code Hearings in Connecticut. Chairperson Michael Huang said that next committee meeting could be rescheduled to accommodate. A poll was sent out to the members to determine that May 5, 2026, would be the next meeting date.

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Member Richard Roberts motioned to adjourn the meeting and Member Cristopher Creamer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 P.M. Pacific Standard Time (PST).