FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026
Hybrid Committee Meeting

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

Zoom 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 and OSFM Building Materials Listing Program Coordinator
Joseph Cervantes – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA)
Jay Levy – Main Fire and Security
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department
Travis Tyler – California State University

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY
Gregory Cobabe – Division of the State Architect
Rick Lewis – Sabah International
Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Christopher Creamer – Underwriters Laboratories
Darryl Engel – Intertek Testing Laboratory
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department

MEMBERS ABSENT
Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company
Michael Galleano – Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District
Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
Neil Lakomiak – Potter Electric Signal Company
Tonya Woods – Kidde Global Solutions

GUESTS PRESENT IN PERSON
Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe

GUESTS PRESENT VITRUALLY
Erik Ziegler – San Francisco Fire Department
Michael Tipton – Integrated Electronics
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
Hal Lewis - Alarms Unlimited Inc
David Deustch – Bill's Sound & Security

OSFM STAFF IN PERSON
Andrew Henning
Brice Bennett
Cortney Walker
Galileo Atalig
Jennifer Reiss
Jena Garcia

OSFM STAFF VIRTUALLY
Jeffrey Schwartz
Jinaki Bahati
Ben Ho
Christopher Dale
Thomas Setnan
Jamie Sammut
Chrishana Fields
Cory Hootman

C. INTRODUCTIONS OF NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS
All attendees present introduced themselves.

D. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – MAY 5, 2026 (ATTACHMENT 1)
Motion by Member Joseph Cervantes, seconded by Member Jay Levy to approve May 5, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DIVISION UPDATES
Chief Bennett encouraged further committee participation and honored the committee members who presented at the last National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Conference.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. THE USE OF HEAT DETECTORS IN LIEU OF SMOKE DETECTORS, 2025 CFC, SECTION 907.4.3

Chairperson Michael Huang advised the committee that internal discussions are still underway to determine whether this matter should be addressed through an information bulletin or a code interpretation. This would require further review by Chief Crystal Sujeski in Code Development before moving forward. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai presented the final document from a task group, in which they concluded that heat detectors can only replace smoke detectors when specifically approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), particularly in environments where smoke cannot accumulate within the building, or in environments that would be hostile to the smoke detector. The committee also identified multi-criteria smoke detectors as an acceptable solution for harsh environments and confirmed that multi-sensor detectors with separate listings for smoke and heat can be used in place of separate devices. Motion by Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, seconded by Member James Carver to refer this item to Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for further discussion. Motion passed unanimously. The document will be sent to the State Fire Marshal for consideration, such as either a code interpretation or informational bulletin.

B. THE USE OF DISABLE BUTTONS ON FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANELS

Member Joseph Cervantes presented his draft proposal to gain input from the committee. Member Joseph Cervantes suggested that a clearer provision needs to be added to NFPA 72 to emphasize that disabling fire alarm systems have a significant impact on fire and life safety, and additional action is needed to address this. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of automatic restoration for any disabled or bypassed fire alarm functions. Such functions should not remain manually bypassed indefinitely, as doing so compromises emergency control features. A 24-hour automatic restoration occurs to ensure that any disabled component, zone, or function returns to normal operation within that timeframe. Upon restoration, all elements must resume full functionality, and the associated supervisory signal should be cleared automatically. The committee debated whether the activation of such functions should report as a trouble or supervisory condition, with the majority opinion favoring a supervisory signal. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai agreed that it should also be supervisory, but that NFPA 72, 2025 Edition, Section 26.5.4.1.3 states *“A trouble signal shall be received when the system or any portion of the system at the protected premises is placed in a bypass or test mode.”,* and that this would need to be changed first. Member Joseph Cervantes agreed with revising NFPA 72, to classify bypass functions as supervisory rather than trouble conditions. Member Christopher Creamer indicated that it is too late for the 2028 Edition of NFPA 72. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai recommended that these changes should be done either

by NFPA 72, 2031 Edition, or it could be done through an amendment in Chapter 80 of the CFC.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE REVIEW REQUEST ON EXTERIOR WATERFLOW ALARMS

The committee reviewed a draft response from the Code Interpretation Committee, presented by Cory Hootman, Senior Mechanical Engineer, OSFM Fire and Life Safety Division Plan Review unit, regarding exterior water flow alarms. There were differing opinions on the interpretation of the code requirement for multiple sprinkler systems. The group discussed whether a single instance of an exterior audible and visual water flow alarm device is required or if each separate sprinkler systems needs its own separate distinct device. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai raised questions about the definition of sprinkler systems, the intent of the exterior alarm device requirement, and gave feedback on what he does in his jurisdiction. Member Joseph Cervantes disagreed with the interpretation of the code requirements, stating that the phrase “each automatic sprinkler system” necessitates individual devices for every system rather than a single device for the building even if it has multiple sprinkler systems. Chief Bennett reiterated that the purpose of this Committee is for input and comments only for the Code Interpretation Committee to consider and that due to time constraints, committee members can provide comments at the end of presenting or via email. Member David Myers mentioned that the 2010 CFC said that one exterior audible device shall be connected to every sprinkler system, which supports the argument that one device could be connected to all sprinkler systems. He indicated that the reason for changing to the current was not clear. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai reiterated that the bottom line is that the intent of this device is to assist firefighters, and AHJs should consider that. Member Jay Levy commented that there are some jurisdictions requiring one exterior waterflow alarm and additionally requiring many outdoor strobes along the building to prevent reentry. He stressed that this results in a loss of identification of the exterior waterflow alarm. Ultimately, the comments will be received by the OSFM and taken into consideration as the Code Interpretation is drafted.

B. NFPA 72, 2028 EDITION UPDATES

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided updates on the upcoming NFPA 72, 2028 edition, including new chapters and proposed changes. The committee also discussed forthcoming updates to NFPA 72, including a new chapter on construction fire alarm systems, the 24-hour battery testing requirements in Chapter 14, and revisions to Chapter 24 addressing area of refuge communication systems to avoid conflicts with fire alarm devices. He informed the group that they may attend the NFPA 72 second draft meeting which will be in Richmond, Virginia, with options to attend as guests or remotely via Zoom.

4. OPEN FORUM

Member James Carver informed the committee the California Fire Prevention Institute (CFPI) workshop committee has put in a call for presentations for 2027 CFPI, information can be found on their website.

Member Joseph Cervantes inquired about further updates concerning pre-installed fire alarm systems in the Energy Storage System (ESS) trailers. Chief Bennett mentioned that there was nothing to report yet, and confirmed internal discussions are ongoing, with plans to include the Bureau of Household Goods and Services in addition to 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.

Member Joseph Cervantes also brought up the listing expiration date being on all pages of the listing. Chairperson Michael Huang said this is still being worked on.

Member Joseph Cervantes also followed up on a previously mentioned information bulletin and/or code interpretation that should have been republished. This concern has been referred to Code Development and Analysis Division.

Member Christopher Creamer provided the update that the Second Draft meeting for the 2028 Edition of NFPA 72 is scheduled for the first week of August. Chapter 26 addresses Auxiliary Service Provider (ASP) requirements, and a resolution in process. A task group within Chapter 26 has submitted a proposal, and representatives from CAL FIRE participated in those discussions. Additionally, UL has established Standard 8555 for auxiliary service providers to ensure compliance, with the first edition targeted for release in December of this year and expect to provide an update at the next advisory committee meeting. After the Second Draft for the 2028 edition is finalized, the language accepted from the public meeting will be submitted as a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) to the 2025 edition. CAL FIRE will then be able to update or revise their information bulletin on auxiliary service providers. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai also gave an update on upcoming changes for two-way area of refuge communication systems.

Member David Myers asked questions regarding Group S Occupancy warehouses storing lithium-ion batteries. He inquired about the fire area of the entire warehouse and if the aisles would be considered a common use area requiring visual notification. Member James Carver commented that there is confusion out there in the industry regarding this. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai clarified that a fire alarm system is only required in Group S Occupancy with more than 3 stories.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Christopher Shimaoka revisited a question raised at the previous meeting regarding expired CSFM listings and whether a device being relocated within a building would need to comply with the updated listing requirements. The group then discussed whether this guidance should be issued by the state as an information bulletin or whether a formal code interpretation request should be submitted instead. Member Travis Tyler and Member James Carver agreed that this information should be documented.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026, 9:00AM – 12:00PM (PACIFIC TIME)
Office of the State Fire Marshal
California Natural Resource Agency Building
2nd Floor, (Conference Room TBD)
715 P St, Sacramento, California 95814

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member James Carver, and seconded by Member Jay Levy. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:41AM (Pacific Time).