

# **FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 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**

None

## **MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE**

Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department  
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department  
Jay Levy – Saf-Com  
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant  
Christopher Creamer – Underwriters Laboratories  
George Barnes – Division of State Architect  
Darryl Engel – Intertek Testing Laboratory  
Neil Lakomiak – Potter Electric Signal Company  
Joseph Cervantes – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department  
Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information  
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company  
Rick Lewis – Sabah International  
Travis Tyler – California State University  
Richard Roberts - National Electrical Manufacturers Association

## **GUESTS PRESENT**

Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe

## **OSFM STAFF**

Michael Huang, Chairperson  
Jinaki Bahati  
Galileo Atalig  
David Castillo  
Ben Ho  
Christopher Dale  
Thomas Setnan  
Kemiko Tolon  
Jeffrey Schwartz  
Crystal Sujeski

### **C. Introductions of Non-Committee Members**

All attendees present introduced themselves.

### **D. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2025 (Attachment 1)**

Member Christopher Creamer motioned to approve the meeting minutes and member Jay Levy seconded. Nine out of nine members present voted to approve the meeting minutes without additional comments and none objected.

### **E. Announcements and Division Updates.**

Chairperson Michael Huang made some announcements and gave the Division updates. He informed the committee that the Building Materials Listing (BML) renewal period has started. All members have been reappointed for another term. He also announced two new committee members, Joseph Cervantes and Neil Lakomiak. He introduced and welcomed them to the committee. Both members expressed their appreciation for being a part of the committee. Chairperson Michael Huang announced that Chief Brice Bennett is the new Acting Division Chief for Fire Engineering & Investigations. He stated that the Code Interpretation regarding the 24-hour battery has been posted to the State Fire Marshal's Code Development and Analysis Division website. Additionally, he informed the committee that the next Fire Alarm Advisory Committee (FAAC) will be held in Southern California at the OSFM Long beach Office if there are no travel restrictions.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Phone Line Emulator Informational Bulletin – (Attachments 2 and 3)**

Chairperson Michael Huang informed the committee there is no action on this matter. Amendments were made to the bulletin per the discussion from the previous FAAC meeting, and it is currently going through the State Fire Marshal's review process and is pending approval. The committee will be informed once the bulletin has been posted.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Reformatted Proposal CCR, Title 19, Section 208(d) – (Attachment 4 & 5)**

OSFM staff member Galileo Atalig informed the committee that the BML Program provided

a staff report via email to the committee, which included the draft of the proposed smoke alarm regulation update to allow new technology regarding interconnection. The draft was a format change that included grouping of the regulations for the 10-year battery life, requirements for including a date of manufacturer, installation date, and the hush feature. Additionally, language that referenced historic dates were removed since they're not relevant today. It has been posted to the committee website to be used for reference. This topic is for information only and no further action is needed from the committee since the committee already voted on this proposal. Chief Crystal Sujeski raised the concern that this could conflict with Title 24 for fire alarms and recommended a comparison to be made between the fire code and building code. OSFM staff member Ben Ho clarified this is only a revision to an existing regulation, Section 208(d) of Title 19, CCR, that allows new technology regarding interconnection for smoke alarms.

## **B. Discussion Regarding Code Interpretation 25-01**

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that this interpretation has been posted to the website with editorial corrections. Additionally, if individuals want to subscribe to get updates for when code interpretations are posted, it can be done through the OSFM website and selecting Code Development and Analysis – Code Interpretations email list ([Subscribe to Newsletter | OSFM](#)).

## **C. Code Adoption Updates**

### **1) Fire Alarm Code Adoption Work Group Updates**

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that Committee member Travis Tyler was selected to serve as Co-Chair of the work group. This is a Code Development and Analysis Division's work group to assist with proposed regulations relating to fire alarm. The tentative kickoff meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> and the timeline for developing code change proposals will be from now until September 30<sup>th</sup>. OSFM leadership will have an internal review before submitting any rulemaking packages for the intervening code cycle. The code packages are due to the Building Standards Commission on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Individuals are encouraged to subscribe to Constant Contact newsletters to stay updated on meetings and work group discussions.

### **2) New Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements in the 2027 IFC/IBC**

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that there was a code change proposal from the public regarding Carbon Monoxide regulations. This prompted changes in the 2024 International Fire Code Section 915 regarding Carbon Monoxide detection. However, these new code sections had gaps or unclear language. So, Jeff Shapiro, a Code Consultant Fire Official for Lake Travis Fire Department in Texas rewrote the section. Chief Crystal Sujeski will provide the code proposal for the 2027 International Fire Code to Chairperson Michael Huang to be distributed. It will be reviewed by the Code Development and Analysis Division to confirm that it doesn't conflict with any other Health and Safety Codes or current regulations in other titles.

### **3) Horizontal Exit 2 Way Emergency Communications**

Committee member Joseph Cervantes informed the committee of the changes in the Significant Code Changes Handbook for California. The amendment to Section 1026 of the California Fire Code that requires a two-way communication system shall be installed in horizontal exit compartments to provide communication in conformance with Title 9 and this will be effective January 2026. Refuge areas are being investigated in addition to

elevator landings. It was confirmed that the horizontal exit in question is a component of the exit that provides a separate space in the building.

#### **4. OPEN FORUM**

Committee member Joseph Cervantes informed the committee of an email that was sent out from the CAFAA Board regarding physical tamper switches that are being distributed in the market that are not listed with the State Fire Marshal. The instruction he provided was to go through the Equipment and Devices Committee and review with the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee and the Building Materials Listing Program for further investigation. Member Joseph Cervantes will forward the email to the BML Program for further research as to whether it needs to be listed or not. He clarified that these are new installations that are trying to enter the market. Committee member Neil Lakomiak added that there are some certified tamper devices on the market with some manufacturers

Chief Crystal Sujeski provided the update to the committee that the Model codes for the Residential, Existing Building, and Building codes, have completed the Committee Action Hearing One in Orlando. There were several code change proposals that circulated around the group's interest and the public comments for any of the proposals will open in approximately two weeks and then be open until June. Committee Action Hearing Two will be held in October, and the final public comment hearing will be held in 2026.

Committee member Christopher Creamer shared with the committee that the issue concerning lightning protection systems led to vast discussion among the Fire Code Advisory Committee (FCAC) members of the International Fire Code (IFC) workgroup. They are considering the potential need to remove lightning protection systems from the code altogether. Committee member Joseph Cervantes offered to follow up on the matter and review the code to see how it would impact any proposals that may be going to the National Electrical Code. Committee member Christopher Creamer will send Committee member Joseph Cervantes the proposal. Committee member George Barnes asked if there are any data for lightning incidents in California to substantiate these code changes. Committee member Joseph Cervantes will provide Committee member George Barnes with the articles on this matter that were printed by the National Electrical Manufacturing Association (NEMA).

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) technical hearings will be held June 18-20<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas. Topics discussed will include the electrical code and NFPA 855.

Committee member Joseph Cervantes informed the committee that the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA) will be hosting an in-person roundtable in June in Costa Mesa. Additionally, they are currently looking at dates in September for CAFAA's State Agency meeting and the date will be sent out in the newsletter very soon.

Committee member Christopher Creamer updated the committee that NFPA 72, 2028 Edition public comment period to submit as a public input expires on June 4, 2025. The first draft meetings for the 2028 edition will be available the last week of July in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

- A.** Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 10:00AM – 12:00PM PDT  
(Location TBD)

**7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Committee member Joseph Cervantes motioned to adjourn the meeting and committee member Christopher Creamer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM (PDT).