



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Alarm Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2024

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Hilton Hotel Palm Springs
400 Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, California 92262
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

COMMITTEE GOAL

To provide a means of communication between the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), representatives of industry and fire service, and the public to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulations and intended future action.

OSFM STAFF

Greg Andersen, Chairperson
Daniel Berlant
Crystal Sujeski
Jinaki Bahati
Michael Huang
David Castillo

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information
Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant
George Barnes – Division of State Architect
Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Jay Levy – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association
Rick Lewis – Sabah International
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Howard Hopper – Underwriters Laboratories
George Barnes – Department of General Services
Travis Tyler – California State University

PUBLIC/GUESTS

Joseph Cervantes – CAFAA/Space Age Electronics, Inc.
David Dakota – Jensen Hughes
Christopher Creamer– UL Solutions
John Maitrejean – Siemens
Chris Shimaoka – National Fail Safe
Maria Marks

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chief Greg Andersen at 3:00 P.M. PDT.

- A. Welcome and Logistics briefing.
Chairperson Chief Greg Andersen provided the welcome introduction.
- B. ROLL CALL / Determine Quorum
Roll call was taken by Jinaki Bahati. Chairperson Greg Andersen determined that we had a quorum. All attendees present and on the phone introduced themselves. Chairperson Greg Andersen welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
- C. Approval of draft meeting minutes from May 31, 2023, meeting.
Member Shane Clary motioned to approve the minutes and member Richard Roberts seconded the motion.. Ten out of twelve members voted in approval of the minutes as amended regarding the correct naming for Pots in a Box. Jinaki Bahati will send the approved amended minutes to the committee.
- D. Announcements/Updates
Chairperson Greg Andersen provided an update on staffing in the Building Materials Listing (BML) Program. Victor Wong and Damon Lam are no longer with the program. Ben Ho and David Castillo have been assigned to BML to assist as Retired Annuitants, and Michael Huang is the new Mechanical Engineer for the BML Program. Crystal Sujeski is appointed as the new Chief of Code Development and Analysis Division. Chairperson Andersen informed the committee of the travel restriction due to the State's current budget deficit. Additionally, all committee reappointments have been extended due to delay in approval of the letters. New appointment letters will be completed as soon as time permits. Andrew Henning is recently appointed as the Assistant Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Assistance and Fire Engineering & Investigations. He reports to Chief Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation. Chief Daniel Berlant has been formally appointed as the State Fire Marshal by the Governor last October 2023. The BML Program is hiring another Mechanical Engineer to fill the vacant position in BML.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Form Work Groups:

1. Phone Line Emulator

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai informed the committee that his jurisdiction now prohibits any new fire alarm systems to go with pots phone lines and only allow for other methods such as radio and cellular communicator, IP communicators are not allowed. Member Sagiv posed the question as to whether these devices can be installed without a permit. He contacted the member of the NFPA 72 Chapter 26 for information on language that provides any direction on how to regulate this. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai inquired if something should be done in California, such as providing an information sheet for guidance to AHJs. Member Shane Clary informed that there were changes made to the next edition of NFPA 72 and the language addressed the issue of power supply. Guest Joseph Cervantes added that these phone lines are also used for Emergency Communications Systems. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai propose the task group to meet with the NFPA 72 Committee and come up with more code suggestions for NFPA 72, 2025 edition. Chief Crystal Sujeski request for a volunteer from the committee to review the amendments in Chapters 80 and 35 of the Building Code and submit any other amendments by March 30,2024 to ensure they align with NFPA 72, 2025 edition, a draft should be done around May 2024. Members Shane Clary, Richard Roberts, and Guests Christopher Creamer and Maria Marks volunteered to assist with the review. Chief Crystal Sujeski will email volunteers the areas that have been amended. Chairperson Greg Andersen suggests setting up a virtual task group to work on drafting up an information bulletin.

B. Horizontal Two-Way Communication Systems.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai brought up the issue regarding many buildings having elevators only on one side of the building without a Horizontal Two-Way Communication System. Currently, there is no requirement provided in the International Code Council (ICC) and the California Building Code (CBC). Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai proposed there be something established in California Codes regarding this issue. Guest Joseph Cervantes clarified, per 1026, the Horizontal Exit becomes a refuge area and is not required in a stair wall if there is access from a horizontal exit. The concern is the public space that lacks the ability for an occupant to communicate if a fire originates in a zone where the elevator is. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai would like recommendations from the committee to propose to the California Building Code to have a call box placed on the other side of the horizontal exit. Guest Joseph Cervantes submitted a code proposal change to the 2027 Code Development to resolve this issue. Chairperson Greg Andersen recommended that Chief Crystal Sujeski submit the committee's recommendations without the approval of the proposal and track the progress.

Guest Joseph Cervantes will email the proposal to Chief Crystal Sujeski. Chairperson Andersen suggest having an Information Bulletin drafted to have for the next meeting. Ten out of 12 members voted in approval of the proposed language.

- C. Follow up with Chairperson Greg Andersen on CFC 907.2.10.6: Develop a Code Interpretation if needed.
Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided an overview of the submitted proposal regarding existing buildings that don't have backup generators. Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that a consensus was not reached from the Code Interpretation Committee regarding visual notification alarms for the hearing impaired. The committee was asked for their opinion on whether a code interpretation is needed for the submitted proposal, a consensus was not reached. Chief Crystal Sujeski will confirm the latest draft received with the code numbers and will send through the Code Interpretation Committee for a vote and proceed from there.
- D. Modify the language for the next 2025 CFC edition regarding Section 907.2.9.3 (R2 College Universities Fire Alarm Systems).
Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that the proposed language changes from Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai were not considered due to timing. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai informed the committee that he revised the proposal to provide more clarity on areas of where the alarm systems should be installed. Ten out of 12 members voted in approval of the recommended language proposal.
- E. Modify the language for the next 2025 CFC edition regarding Section 907.5.2.3.1 (Visual Notifications in the public and common use areas).
Chief Crystal Sujeski updated the committee on the submitted proposals, which have passed with additional items added to the list. The code change has been placed at the national level as a proposal, which allows for broader feedback. Member Sagiv commented that the language specifying "two or more" should be deleted regarding any members of the public. Guest Joseph Cervantes shared language from the code proposal provided from the 2027 edition on visual alarm notification appliances outlining public and common use areas. Chairperson Greg Andersen approved to move forward with the existing language. Member Sagiv motioned to approve the language with the justification to remove the "two or more" and the exception of areas where the device is not required. No other member seconded, motioned failed.
- F. Discuss exempt location for sprinkler CFC Section 903.3.1.1.1 item #6 and per Chairperson Greg Andersen's input below.
Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai informed the committee of the language proposal to remove item #6 because it's currently covered in the model code. Member Sagiv motioned to move the language proposal forward and member Shane Clary seconded. Ten out of 12 members voted in approval of the language proposal. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai will forward the proposal to Chief Crystal Sujeski.
- G. Task Group Report: CFC Section 907.6.4 Zones.
Guest Christopher Creamer informed the committee that the task group has not completed the work and will continue to work on this matter. This item will remain on the agenda for the next meeting for the task group to provide an update.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Issue of key operated pull stations for I Occupancies.
Guest John Maitrejean provided input regarding key operated pull stations no longer being approved by CSFM due to non-compliance with UL 38. However, the code states they are required to be installed. Guest John Maitrejean mentioned the institution manual pull station and it is specifically designed for institution application. Chairperson Greg Andersen provided the update that CSFM will allow the pull stations to be listed only institutions for private use and will have a marking for private use only.
- B. Provide a summary of fire alarm and signaling system proposals submitted for the 2027 edition of the IFC.
Due to timing, Member Richard Roberts will send a summary of the proposals to Chairperson Greg Andersen and Jinaki to forward to the committee to review.
- C. Review of OSFM NFPA 25 form and requirements by group.
Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that the forms have become difficult due to ADA compliance. The proposal for the national standard is delayed but has been approved by the committee, currently in the process of getting the forms updated to be ADA compliant.

4. OPEN FORUM

- A. Member Shane Clary brought up the concern regarding security generators being sold out of a UK firm and marketed to the US. If being installed in locations illegally they could potential go off and trigger a fire alarm system.
- B. Guest Joseph Cervantes reiterated the concern regarding alarm systems surrounding construction sites alerting workers of impending dangers and notifying the fire department. He has written another proposal to the I Codes for chapter 33, Section 3313.1 outlining the requirements for notification detection systems for all construction sites, of a magnitude of 100,000 sf or 3 stories in height. Member Shane Clary concurred. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai stated a task group has been established for this matter but did not make this meeting's agenda. Member Richard Roberts and Guest Joseph Cervantes will work together to develop a UL product listing standard for these systems.
- C. Guest Christopher Creamer provided an update regarding the review from the Monitoring Association of performance base requirements for Cellular and IP Communicators. The Chapter 26 Committee created a definition for requirements for the auxiliary service provider. The requirement will be that the ASPs (Auxiliary Service Provider) will need to be listed per UL 827 with requirements effective January 1, 2027. Guest, Joseph Cervantes recommended involving Guest Christopher Creamer to the Southern California Fire Alarm Devices Committee and include any stakeholders interested in participating in the meetings.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that a doodle poll will be sent for the next meeting and the remaining meetings for the year. Next meeting will be held in Sacramento possibly the second week of May 2024. Chairperson Greg Andersen adjourned the meeting at 5:25 P.M. PDT.