



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Alarm Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2024

Office of the State Fire Marshal
715 P Street, 9th Floor, Raymond Room
Sacramento, CA 95814
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 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
Andrew Henning
Crystal Sujeski
Jinaki Bahati
Michael Huang
Galileo Atalig
Ben Ho
David Castillo

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE

Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
George Barnes – Division of State Architect
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department
Travis Tyler – California State University
Jay Levy – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information
Howard Hopper – Underwriters Laboratories
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant
Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Rick Lewis – Sabah International

PUBLIC/GUESTS

Mark White – System Sensor
Christopher Creamer– UL Solutions

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Greg Andersen at 10:05 A.M. PDT.

- A. Welcome and Logistics briefing.
Chairperson Greg Andersen provided the welcome introduction.
- B. ROLL CALL / Determine Quorum
Roll call was taken by Jinaki Bahati. Chairperson Greg Andersen determined that we did not have a quorum, and there will be no voting in this meeting and only updates will be provided during the meeting. 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 February 7, 2024, meeting
Since we did not have a quorum, this agenda item will be postponed to the next meeting. Chairperson Greg Andersen asked the committee if there were any edits or comments to the draft minutes. The committee confirmed no further edits or comments.
- D. Announcements/Updates
Chairperson Greg Andersen provided an update on staffing in the Building Materials Listing (BML) Program. Ben Ho and David Castillo have been assigned to train the mechanical engineers. Galileo “Leo” Atalig is the new Mechanical Engineer for the BML Program, and he joined the program on May 1, 2024. Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee of the new policies and procedures for public meetings, and we will be following the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, a California law that covers all state boards and commissions, requiring that these bodies publicly notice their meetings, prepare agendas, accept public testimony, and conduct their meetings in public unless specifically authorized by the Act. There will be staff reports include in every meeting so member can review them ahead of the meeting. This will apply for all advisory committees within the Fire Engineering and Investigations Division. Our Legal Office is currently reviewing the policies and procedures and will provide feedback which included the advisory committee charter and appointment letters, with more updates pending.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Virtual Workgroup on the Information Bulletin on Phone Line Emulator
Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai was not present at the meeting to provide an update. Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee she has not yet received feedback from him. Guest Christopher Creamer informed the committee that he has been in contact with the Southern California Fire Prevention Officers, they've expressed their concerns on the usage of the phone line emulator, and he suggested this topic be discussed when more members are present.
- B. Horizontal Two-Way Communication Systems
Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee she did receive a proposal from Joseph Cervantes, and it is currently in the initial rule making package. It will be discussed with the Code Advisory Committee for feedback and a draft proposal to the Building Standards Commission. It should be posted by early June and the Building Fire and other hearings drafts will be posted on July 9-11th. Chairperson Greg Andersen confirmed this will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- C. Task Group Report: CFC Section 907.6.4 Zones Update
Member Travis Tyler provided report update to the committee and shared a comparison spreadsheet. The group believes that the original intent was for conventional zones with conventional fire panels and most of the zone information is included in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72. The group has proposed to delete all the California Amendments from Section 907.6.4, California Fire Code (CFC) to make it look the same as it is in the model code and recommended looking at section CFC 907.6.4.3 regarding Notification Zoning and doing the same with this section. Chairperson Greg Andersen confirmed this proposal would be for the next code cycle. Member Travis Tyler will send the documents to Chairperson Greg Andersen so they can be added to the staff report and be discussed further at the next advisory meeting.
- D. Fire Alarms at Construction Site Workgroup Update
Chief Crystal Sujeski informed that this was discussed at the Committee Action Meeting and is getting national recognition but there was some opposition and a soft disapproval of the proposal. Chairperson Greg Andersen explained that there will be another committee code hearing held in October in this code cycle to allow the opportunity for feedback and to hear any other proposals with the hope to create better code proposals to be heard and given more time to be vetted out by the committee, public, and stakeholders.
- E. Items moved to Code Development
1. Modified language for CFC Section 907.2.9.3 (R2 College Universities Fire Alarm Systems)
Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that the language update was done in the last code cycle and was approved. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai's modified language proposal was discussed at the last meeting but was not approved. Chief Crystal Sujeski did not submit a proposal to modify what was already accomplished in the previous meeting. Chairperson Greg Andersen explained that if the committee has other recommendations for this proposal, then it would be for the next code cycle.

2. CFC Section 903.3.1.1.1 item #6

Chairperson Greg Andersen reminded the committee that the issue is the language in the code is still creating some confusion. The intent of this regulation was to remove the smoke detector from the elevator shaft if the elevator equipment is not in the shaft. Chief Crystal Sujeski did not receive any action items regarding this matter. This topic will be added to the agenda for the next meeting to be discussed further.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. CAL FIRE/OSFM proposals at the International Code Council Hearings

1. F137-24 on CFC 907.5.2.3 – Visual Notifications in the public and common use areas.

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee this was a staff report for a proposal, for information only, that was done through the International Code Council (ICC). The code package was submitted by the State Fire Marshal to the ICC Committee. Chief Crystal Sujeski explained that the intent was to see if feedback could be provided to clarify public use and common use areas. The committee recommended that this information would be better utilized in a code and commentary portion. If the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee agrees with this recommendation, Chief Crystal Sujeski can move forward with the process required to pursue this for the international codes. The proposal can be submitted as “amended” or “as submitted.” The deadline for proposal submittals is from June 4, 2024, through the end of July. If the committee has any language proposals or comments, they are to send those to Chief Crystal Sujeski first. Any comments received by Chief Crystal Sujeski from the committee members will be shared with Chairperson Greg Andersen and he will share with the entire committee.

B. Workgroup for proposal to make NFPA 72 and the California Fire Code consistent.

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee this was a staff report for a proposal, for information only. The committee would form a task group to review the California Amendments for fire alarms and come up with code proposals for the next cycle to clean up some of the language. A committee vote will take place at the next committee meeting. Chief Crystal Sujeski will oversee this proposal and possibly conduct a study for this code section to see how to make this clearer in the regulations. Guest, Christopher Creamer stated he would be interested in being chair for this task group once it is formed. Chairperson Greg Andersen elaborated that another staff report will be discussed at the next meeting for a consensus vote and to identify the task group members. Chief Crystal Sujeski stated that other stakeholders would potentially be interested in being a part of this task group. Chairperson Greg Andersen mentioned that the work done by Member Travis Tyler regarding the zones could possibly be included in this same proposal.

C. System Sensor LED Strobe Recall

Ben Ho informed the committee this was specifically for the Low Frequency Sounder and that an Information Bulletin was issued and posted to the OSFM website. Public Guest Mark White, representative of System Sensor, informed the committee they can contact him if anyone has any questions.

4. OPEN FORUM

- A. Chairperson Greg Andersen reminded the committee that any agenda items received late can be brought up during the open forum with the exclusion of any votes on those items. The deadline for review and posting of agenda items is 6-8 weeks before the next committee meeting.
- B. Chief Crystal Sujeski brought up the concern regarding emergency back-up for alarms and strobes and inquired about an update on this matter. Chairperson Greg Andersen informed this issue is still pending with the code committee. Chief Crystal Sujeski will work with the Division of State Architect (DSA) to verify an approved interpretation for a recommendation on this matter.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that the next meeting will be held August 13, 2024. Chairperson Greg Andersen adjourned the meeting at 11:12 A.M. PDT.