



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION**

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**CALFIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Fire Alarm Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2018**

COMMITTEE GOAL

To advise the State Fire Marshal on proposed regulations and technical issues by providing views and comments from members of industry, the public, and the fire service.

STAFF

Paul Eck, Chairperson
James Parsegian, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal
David Castillo, Senior Mechanical Engineer, Chair
Nickell Mosely, Staff Services Analyst

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nanci Timmins, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
*Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, San Francisco Fire Department
Rick Cortina, Apple Valley Communications
Wendy Gifford, Nest Laboratories
John Guhl, NoFireOne
Rick Lewis, Sabah International
Jay Levy, Saf-Com Supply
Richard Roberts, Honeywell Security & Fire

**Via Conference Call*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories, LLC
David Meyers, City of Los Angeles
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company
Andrew Thul, tk1sc Collaborative

GUESTS PRESENT

James Carver, El Segundo FD, also representing So. Cal. Fire Prevention Officers Association & Equipment Devices Committee.
Michael Donahue, Pyro Comm. Systems
Daniel Tate, Intrepid

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Paul Eck at 2:07 PM on January 31, 2018.

II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nickell Mosely conducted a roll call and it was determined that there was a quorum of members present.

Committee Goals: Paul Eck opened the meeting by introducing himself and revisiting the committee goals and the responsibilities of the committee chairperson. He requested all members to introduce themselves. Paul Eck verified who received a copy of the committee chart. All members indicated they had received the committee chart. Paul Eck informed the committee regarding timely adding agenda items and to comply with the Bagley Keene Act in open meetings.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Richard Roberts: sent James Parsegian an email dated January 8, 2018, regarding adding an agenda item for creating a new category code for BML Program.

James Parsegian responded, that was a program issue and would work offline. Paul Eck added the proper process for getting something added to the agenda timely. Paul Eck also spoke about the Attorney General's Guide and Legislative Acts.

Pipefitters Regulations Schedule: James Parsegian gave a brief overview of the pipefitters program. Those are briefly outlined as follows:

- Received over 4,000 applications and Certificates that are currently going out.
- The date that the regulations are effective July 1, 2017. The December 31st, 2017 date was the cut-off date to bypass the test. Any applicants applying now will be required to take the test to receive a certification.
- Effective July 1, 2018, every job site will need to have one (1) certified pipefitter on location at all time.
- Effective January 1, 2019, everyone on the job site including fitters, apprentices and trainees will be required to have a registration card issued by OSFM.

No questions were asked.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Code Change proposals SoCal FPO:

James Carver's proposal from SoCal and NorCal "Cal Chiefs Proposal" is the modification to 907.5.2.3.3 Group R2 pathway for future expandability of fire alarm systems for visible notification in R2's. The original section needed clarification. They proposed a code change in the 2018 Code. James Carver did not attend the committee action hearing and Cal Chief and American Fire Alarm Assoc., decided to go with American Fire Alarm Assoc.'s proposal. It then went to public comment and Jeff Shiparo proposed something more clear. James Carver presented the final proposal that R2's should be for future visible alarm notifications and should have a path. A section was also added, "Plans for future designs that can pass the capabilities shall be submitted with the fire alarm system to the fire code official".

Richard Roberts Question: That proposal has been submitted?

James Carver Answer: Yes

Richard Roberts Comment: The Automatic Fire Alarm Association has submitted a proposal as well because they felt that the language that made it into the 2018 code was unclear. Richard Roberts thinks that what they are trying to accomplish is that each dwelling unit does not need to be pre-wired for future use?

James Carver: Yes, give us a pathway.

Richard Roberts and James Carver agreed to get together in the next couple of weeks to discuss further regarding modifying on the floor or public comment at the next conference.

Smoke Alarm Listing:

James Carver: Smoke Alarm is supposed to have a disable switch to disable the device so you can't mount it back into the housing. Jurisdictions in Palm Springs found 2 things wrong in 2015 and 2016. When you buy a house in Palm Springs, they inspect the house as a service.

1. When you install the alarms, you need to press a test button to activate it, otherwise it does not activate. They referred that situation to the Public Education Committee to do a community outreach program.
2. Finding disabled devices that are reinstalled. We were unaware that they could have a disabled switch. Discovered that the switch was there to completely discharge the battery to stop the chirping or "hazardous waste" area and rendering the unit resistant to being reinstalled. David Castillo didn't think the mounting was right and he was going to go back to UL and ask for clarification. David Castillo spoke with UL and presented his findings. People are coming up with different interpretations of what the exact language means.

James Carver: Once the language is clarified to UL, then they can get the information out to the industry.

David Castillo: Asked James Carver to forward the emails that he receives regarding the problems with the disable switches.

Wendy Gifford: Comment: Clarified that UL does not write the language the technical panel writes it. And the word "Resistant" does not mean "totally impossible under any circumstances."

BML Regulation Update:

James Parsegian: Main concern with Regulation package is SFM has several mandates that were not accomplished in the past regarding approval of gas valves, gas detectors, and burglar bars. SFM added a section stating, "In order to be approved by SFM you must participate in the BML program.". Same language would apply to both. Approval requires participation in the BML program. Also, consolidating the Vapor Recovery Certification Program by adding that to the BML Program as well.

Question: When you say "gas detectors", does that mean LPG?

James Parsegian: response: Yes

Question: And LPG stands for?

James Parsegian: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Question: Only LPG?

James Parsegian: Only LPG, statutes only require LPG and gas detectors.

Comment: Paul Eck: Explained we are trying to find the areas of statute. What we are required to do, what we should do and what we can do. We need to cover all the requirements. If the FPOs feel that the certification includes other types of gas valves, then we would like to hear about it and propose regulations regarding that.

Flame Retardant Fabrics and Chemicals:

James Parsegian: Now required to be certified and put on a list. We are possibly looking to add those to BML program. We are trying to consolidate programs.

Semi-Annual vs. Annual Testing

Shane Clary not present. Paul Eck opened topic for discussion since it was on the agenda. Committee members agreed to move it to the next meeting when Shane Clary can be present.

Wendy Gifford: Comment: that has been discussed before the drought situation.

Paul Eck: Answered: We are still in a water saving posture with the governor.

James Carver: Comment: Recommend committees get together to correlate the testing and maintenance requirements for 25 and 72.

Wendy Gifford: Comment: Would like information regarding public safety risks be distributed before the next meeting so committee has time to review before next committee meeting.

James Parsegian to contact Shane Clary to get info and distribute.

V. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

John Guhl: Item on August 2017 agenda, but meeting was cancelled: California Fire Code 907.6.1.1, modification of SFM existing amendment regarding fire alarms in high rise buildings.

Paul Eck: Item will be added to the next agenda.

Semi-annual vs. Annual testing with Shane Clary

Wendy Gifford: Question: Once a meeting date is set, how long before that do we need to have items for the agenda?

Paul Eck: Answer: The Agenda needs to be published 10 days prior to the meeting. Roughly 2 weeks.

Section 510 of the fire code – radio enhancement systems. No BML category code for radio enhancement systems. (UL2524) Intent is to have product standards by the end of the year. Would like to speak with James Parsegian before adding it the agenda.

Sagiv Weiss-Ishai: Comment: Class A (wiring) will be on next agenda?

Paul Eck: Yes, it will be on the next agenda.

Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location

May 8, 2018, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (Pacific Daylight Time) at the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2020 West El Camino Ave., Sacramento. A telephone conference line will be available.

Public Comments: NONE

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Paul Eck at 3:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes developed by:

Nickell Mosely, Staff Services Analyst

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