



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Alarm Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2023

Hilton Palm Springs Resort
400 Tahquitz Canyon Way,
Palm Springs, California 92262
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

In Person and Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Victor Wong, Chairperson
Daniel Berlant
Wendy Collins
Frank Bigelow
Andrew Henning
Greg Andersen
Cortney Walker
Jinaki Bahati
Taylor Machado
Damon Lam
Ben Ho
Crystal Sujeski

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information
Jay Levy – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association
Rick Cortina – Apple Valley Communications
Rick Lewis – Sabah International
Travis Tyler – California State University
Vidal Garcia – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department
Wendy Gifford – Google Nest Laboratories
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company
James Carver – Public/End User/Consultant

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturers Association
David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department

MEMBERS ABSENT

Howard Hopper – Underwriters Laboratories

PUBLIC/GUESTS

Chris Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe
Steven Lewis – RFI Communications & Security Systems
George Barnes – Division of State Architect
Daniel Tate – CAFAA/Intrepid Electronic Systems, Inc.
Joseph Cervantes – CAFAA/Space Age Electronics, Inc.
Maria Marks – Siemens Industry, Inc.
John Bennett – CAFAA/Bennett Fire & Security Inc.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Victor Wong at 3:03 P.M. PDT.

- A. Welcome and Logistics briefing.
Chairperson Victor Wong provided the welcome introduction.

- B. ROLL CALL / Determine Quorum
Roll call was taken by Damon Lam. Chairperson Victor Wong determined that we had a quorum. All attendees present and on Zoom introduced themselves. Chief Andersen welcomed all attendees to the meeting and informed the committee that Chief Berlant is currently the Acting State Fire Marshal.

Chief Berlant gave a remark and introduced Chief Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director, who oversees the Fire Engineering and Investigations Division. Chief Andersen introduced Cortney Walker, the Staff Services Manager of the Division.

- C. Approval of draft meeting minutes from August 10, 2022, meeting
Member Shane Clary motioned to approve the Minutes and member James Carver seconded the motion. Ten out of thirteen members voted in approval of the Minutes with no further edits and the Minutes was approved.
- D. Announcements/Updates
Chief Andersen updated the committee on the on-going enhancements of GOVMOTUS and recent changes within division personnel.

Crystal Sujeski announced about the upcoming OSFM Centennial Anniversary on May 23, 2023, and that the website is currently available online. To recognize the committee for their efforts, every member will receive a CAL FIRE/OSFM Centennial Challenge Coin and Commemorative Pin.

Chairperson Victor Wong provided an update on the Regulations package regarding the exception for interconnection of smoke alarms (Title 19, Section 208) and a minor update of Section 206. There were no changes to text of proposed regulation since the previous meeting and the paperwork has been submitted to the OSFM Code Development and Analysis Division for review and then to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Committee members will receive a copy of the proposed regulation once it is open for public comment.

Chief Andersen provided an update regarding other program's fee proposal packages that are currently in process, and that all 2022 proposed codes for Title 24 have been submitted to the Building Standards Commission for review. He informed there will be a Commission meeting in June and possibly July 2023.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. California Fire Code (CFC) 907.2.10.6 Code Interpretation – Sagiv Weiss-Ishai
Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai gave a brief review of the code interpretation that was submitted due to more members of the committee being present. Crystal Sujeski confirmed that the code interpretation will be added to the regulations package. Chief Andersen brought up the matter concerning back-up power for strobes and asked the advisory committee for their thoughts and for a motion of recommendation. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai motioned to approve the recommendation and Member Rick Cortina seconded. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai will write up a draft recommendation with a proposed answer to submit to the advisory committee for review.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm vs Detectors (2014 IFC) – Wendy Gifford
Member Wendy Gifford gave the update that the International Fire Code (IFC) decided that a carbon monoxide alarm would be acceptable protection in certain occupancies if they did not have a fire alarm system and asked the committee for their thoughts. Member Richard Roberts will send Crystal

Sujeski and Chairperson Victor Wong the proposal numbers for the 2024 addition of the IFC. The committee was informed that the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard 2034 for CO alarms is currently being amended to revise the scope and has not yet been approved. Members Wendy Gifford and Rick Cortina are participating in a workgroup to address this issue to confirm requirements regarding NFPA 72, Chapter 29.

B. Fire Alarm System During Construction – Victor Wong

Chairperson Victor Wong briefed the committee regarding how construction sites utilize fire alarms and asked if there are any past or current industry practices. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided information regarding the San Francisco fire code in relation to temporary wireless interconnection systems on construction sites. Guest Joseph Cervantes shared information on a product that is UL and Intertek listed under the Construction Environment (CE) Label. Member James Carver suggested a group to work on a code proposal.

C. UL 38 Fire Alarm Pull Boxes Update – Victor Wong

Chairperson Victor Wong gave a brief update regarding the program's review of manual fire alarm box listings to ensure they meet ADA requirements and have communicated with the manufacturers and the testing laboratories to review their checklists and criteria.

4. OPEN FORUM

A. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai proposed to form a task group to discuss and fix issues in the 2022 NFPA 13, Section 9.3.6 regarding the California amendments and request for this discussion to be added to next meeting agenda. In addition, he requested to have the California Fire Code, Section 907.6.4, regarding Annunciation and Notification Zones, to be added as well. Chief Andersen recommends setting up a work group instead of a task group to further discuss the issue.

B. Member Sagiv motions to form a work group to discuss further to make NFPA 72 editorial changes to be more consistent with the California Fire Code. Member Richard Roberts seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the discussion topic will be added to the next meeting agenda to discuss further and assign member to the work group.

C. Member Shane Clary brought up the issue regarding pots-in-a-box, which are currently not allowed to be installed on certain premises and are not properly UL listed. He suggested that this discussion be added to the next meeting agenda.

D. Member Richard Roberts brought up the issue regarding Duct mounted CO detectors and how installation companies are being told it can be used in lieu of where the fire code requires spot type detection. Chief Andersen mentioned that any marketed product concerns should be sent to OSFM, Fire Engineering & Investigations Division for further review.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Joseph Cervantes brought up the concern regarding horizontal exits, two-way communication systems and suggested to have this potential topic added to the agenda for the next meeting.

6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Victor Wong informed the committee that a doodle poll will be sent for the next meeting to be held in Sacramento. Chairperson Victor Wong adjourned the meeting a 4:55 P.M. PDT.