



## **OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

Fire Alarm Advisory Committee

### **MEETING MINUTES**

May 31, 2023

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
715 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814  
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 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  
Frank Bigelow  
Greg Andersen  
Jinaki Bahati  
Damon Lam  
Taylor Machado  
Ben Ho

## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nanci Timmins – Department of Health Care Access and Information

## MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Travis Tyler – California State University

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

Howard Hopper – Underwriters Laboratories

George Barnes – Division of State Architect

## MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Roberts – National Electrical Manufacturers Association

Jay Levy – California Automatic Fire Alarm Association

Rick Cortina – Apple Valley Communications

Rick Lewis – Sabah International

David Myers – CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department

## PUBLIC/GUESTS

Chris Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe

Joseph Cervantes – CAFAA/Space Age Electronics, Inc.

Christopher Creamer – Underwriters Laboratories

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Victor Wong at 10:05 A.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.
- C. Approval of draft meeting minutes from February 1, 2023, meeting  
Member Howard Hopper motioned to approve the Minutes and member Shane Clary seconded the motion. Ten out of eleven members voted in approval of the minutes with no further edits.
- D. Announcements/Updates  
Chairperson Victor Wong provided an update on GOVmotus regarding feedback that was received, and a draft of enhancements has been submitted to the site developers for further review. The committee was informed of a public session being held by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) to go over the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Jinaki will send the information to the committee.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Form Work Groups:

#### 1. Fire Alarm System during Construction

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai informed the committee that effective January 1, 2023, that CA San Francisco Fire code has been updated. Every large wood frame building under construction will be required to have temporary wireless fire alarm systems. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai agreed to be chair of the work group. Guest Joseph Cervantes and member Shane Clary volunteered to be in the work group.

#### 2. CFC Section 907.6.4 Zones

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai volunteered to chair this work group. The goal is to clarify the California requirement for notification zoning for fire alarm systems on the initiating side. Guest Christopher Creamer and member Travis Tyler volunteered to be in the work group.

#### 3. NFPA 72 Editorial Changes

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided an update on the status of the editorial changes submitted. He briefed the committee of the issue regarding the terminology inconsistencies between the California Fire Code and NFPA 72. The goal is to make them consistent with one another. Sagiv will be chair the workgroup, member George Barnes, and guests Christopher Creamer and Joseph Cervantes volunteered to be in the work group.

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Committee Members: Re-Appointment

Chairperson Victor Wong reminded the committee to submit their letter requests for reappointment. For new appointment members, they are to reach out to the BML program for the required documents to submit.

### B. Phone Line Emulation

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided information regarding the use of a new device that connects a panel to the box and transmits to the company's supervisor's station via internet/ethernet. There is a concern as to whether these devices have been approved for use or not. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai suggests submitting a proposed code interpretation to OSFM to provide guidelines and increase the consistency between California jurisdictions. He recommends forming a workgroup to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

### C. Horizontal Exits Two-Way Communication System

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai briefed the committee on the issue regarding horizontal exits in new residential buildings. The California Fire Code and California Building Code lack the requirements for specific buildings that have horizontal exits. There is an exception in Chapter 10 of the Fire Code that generators are not required if Horizontal Exits are in place. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai suggested that an additional call box should be added to the other side of the horizontal exit as a specific requirement for two-way communication systems. Chief Andersen recommended for member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai to draft the language for discussion at the next meeting and then submit to Code Development and Analysis.

Member Sagiv Weiss Ishai and guest Joseph Cervantes agreed to work on the proposed language and bring to the next committee meeting for review.

#### 4. OPEN FORUM

- A. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai brought up the issue regarding CFC 907.2.10.6, existing R2 unit/buildings that are hard wired with a battery for smoke alarms. If a smoke alarm has integral strobe, is it required to have stand by electrical system in existing R2 building? The question is limited to existing buildings not new construction. Chief Andersen stated this issue has been discussed at the code interpretation meetings. He posed the question if the device can be OSFM listed, and will it comply with the American Disability Act (ADA) if the strobe does not have back up power? Chief Andersen will discuss with other agencies.
- B. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai discussed the issue regarding fire alarm systems specifically for R2 operated by colleges/universities. Smoke alarms listed to UL 217 must be connected to the building fire alarm system and might create a lot of issues. The committee worked on the language for Section 907.2.9.3 to clarify the intent and has been submitted as public comment. Chief Andersen informed the proposal was moved forward with the original language due to tight deadlines.
- C. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai brought up the issues concerning public/common use areas, Section 907.5.2.3.1. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai shared with the committee his proposed language update to the exception. Chief Andersen request to put this issue on the agenda for the next meeting to allow the committee to review and give feedback.
- D. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided an update regarding NFPA 13-2025, the national committee has worked on this and the next edition after the second draft will be consistent with California.
- E. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai provided an update regarding ERRCS (Emergency Responder Radio Communication Systems Code). NFPA 1221 no longer exist and has been combined with NFPA 1036 as a new standard. NFPA 1225-2022 will be the adopted code for California for ERRCS.

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Guest Joseph Cervantes shared a Facebook video post involving a fire incident inside of a construction building. Per section 19226.150, OSHA requires the means of notifying site workers and the Fire Department. The workers in the building were not provided the appropriate means to be notified of the fire in time enough to evacuate. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai suggested performance-based design systems for buildings only during the construction period.

#### 6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Victor Wong informed the committee that a doodle poll will be sent for the next meeting in September to be held in Sacramento. Chairperson Victor Wong adjourned the meeting at 11:56 A.M. PDT.