Fire Alarm Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Hybrid Committee Meeting

Meeting Location:
Hilton Palm Springs Resort, 400 Tahquitz Canyon Way Palm Springs, CA 92262

Zoom Meeting Option:
Meeting ID:886 9711 8894

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

Chairperson Michael Huang provided the welcome and introduction.

B. Committee Member Introductions and Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was taken by Jinaki Bahati and determined that we had a quorum.

Members Present
Vidal Garcia, Los Angeles City Fire Department
David Myers, CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department
Travis Tyler – California State University
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, San Francisco Fire Department
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company
Rick Lewis, Sabah International
Jay Levy, California Automatic Fire Alarm Association
Nanci Timmins, Department of Health Care Access and Information
James Carver, Public/End User/Consultant
Richard Roberts, National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Christopher Creamer, Underwriters Laboratories
George Barnes, Division of State Architect
Darryl Engel, Intertek Testing Laboratory

Members Absent
None

Public Guests
Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe
Joseph Cervantes – Space Age Electronics
Rick Cortina
Neil Tolentino – San Francisco Fire Department
Maria Marks - Siemens
Wayne Moore – Fire Protection Engineer
Steven Schwartz -Consolidated Fire Protection
John Bennett – Bennett Fire & Security
Joe Morelli – Ventura County Fire Department

Office of State Fire Marshal Personnel (OSFM)
Michael Huang, Committee Chairperson, OSFM
Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director, OSFM
Brice Bennett, Division Chief of Fire Engineering, OSFM
Galileo Atalig, Mechanical Engineer, OSFM
Jinaki Bahati, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, OSFM

David Castillo, Retired Annuitant, OSFM
Ben Ho, Retired Annuitant, OSFM
Crystal Sujeski, Division Chief of Code Development, OSFM
Jeffrey Schwartz, Deputy State Fire Marshal Supervisor, OSFM
Michael Hill, Staff Service Manager I, OSFM
Christopher Dale, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, OSFM
Thomas Setnan, Staff Services Analyst, OSFM

C. Introductions of Non-Committee Members

All attendees present introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes – 11/06/2024 (Attachment 1)

Member Christopher Creamer motioned to approve the November 6th minutes, Member Richard Roberts seconded. Thirteen out of thirteen members approved of the meeting minutes without further comments or corrections.

E. Announcements and Division Updates.

Chairperson Michael Huang informed the committee that the BML renewal period has started, reminding manufacturers to submit renewals timely to avoid late fees. The BML team will be attending the California Fire Prevention Institute (CFPI) in March to teach a class. New Members Darryl Engel and Christopher Creamer were welcomed as new members of the committee. Additionally, BML team will be working on processing the re-appointment letters that have been received.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Phone Line Emulator Informational Bulletin (Attachments 2 and 3)

Chairperson Michael Huang informed the committee of the changes made to the original draft Information Bulletin provided by Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai and Wayne Moore. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai informed the committee that San Francisco Fire Department has adopted similar language into their Administrative Bulletin 2.01. Member George Barnes, Member Shane Clary, and several other members had several comments and requested changes be made to the bulletin. Chairperson Michael Huang stated the Information Bulletin needs more work and reverted the bulletin back to the work group for more revisions. Members Shane Clary, Richard Roberts, James Carver, Nanci Timmins, George Barnes, and Christopher Creamer agreed to join the work group.

B. Code Interpretation Request for 24-hour Battery Testing for Fire Alarm Systems

Chairperson Michael Huang informed the committee of the Code Interpretation Committee's drafted answer for the question regarding 24-hour battery testing for annual or initial acceptance testing of Fire Alarm Systems. The draft was as follows: *QUESTION: During an acceptance or annual test of a fire alarm system, is 24-hour battery testing required in accordance with NFPA 72 (2022) chapter 14, table 14.4.3.2, subsection 8? ANSWER: No, NFPA 72 does not require that power be disconnected from the fire alarm system for a full 24 hours for this battery test. However, it is ultimately the responsibility and decision of the authority having jurisdiction to determine how the fire alarm secondary (standby) power supply should be annually measured or verified.* Chairperson Michael Huang asked for discussion, recommendations, or feedback from the committee regarding the drafted answer. Member Shane Clary mostly agreed with the answer, and informed the committee that he would submit public comment for NFPA 72 to clarify this part of the standard.

Member James Carver suggested removing the second sentence of the answer since the AHJ already has the final say, and restating the AHJ's responsibility would be redundant, and unclear if written as part of a code interpretation answer. Chief Crystal Sujeski requested a vote on the removal of AHJ statement so that the Code Interpretation Committee can move this forward for the sake of the applicant. Member James Carver motioned for the committee to recommend removal of the statement and Member Shane Clary seconded. Eight out of thirteen members approved, 3 out of thirteen members denied, and 2 out of thirteen members abstained. Motion passes. The Fire Alarm Advisory Committee recommends that the Code Interpretation Committee remove the extra AHJ statement.

3. NEW BUSINESS

C. Questionable Smoke Sensing Device (Attachment 4)

Galileo Atalig provided a brief overview of a Smoke Sensing Device for household appliances. He informed the committee that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) received a report from a local Fire Marshal in California on questionable heat sensing devices, which are not currently OSFM listed. Feedback from the committee was requested as to whether these devices would be considered fire alarm devices or not. Member Richard Roberts stated that, since the devices are not listed to the applicable standards, he does not consider them fire alarm devices. Guest Rick Cortina commented that these are not fire life safety devices, they are ancillary devices that are not required by code.

D. Code Updates

1) 2025 Triennial Code Cycle

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that the final hearings with the Building Standards Commission for the Building, Fire and Other Committee (BFO) have been postponed and rescheduled for February 26th-28th. What will be heard at the commission hearing are the Administrative Code, Residential Code, Building Code, Fire Code, Existing Building Code, as well as the proposal to create a new Part 7, California Wildland-Urban Interface Code. The two issues concerning the smoke detector alarm for R2 occupancies and the sprinkler in elevator pits issue were addressed during the 15 day and will be heard at the BFO meeting.

2) Task group Update: Coordination of Terms between NFPA 72 and CFC

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee the updates were received for the latest edition of NFPA 72 and request for any corrections that are needed to be sent to her.

3) Task group Update: 2022 California Fire Code (CFC), Section 907.6.4

Member Travis Tyler informed the committee that the work group reviewed the comparison of the fire alarm sections of the California Fire Code to see if the California amended language is still necessary because of all the modernization of NFPA 72. He suggested forming a task group within code development to review all of Chapter 907 to see if those California amendments are still necessary.

4) Code Proposal ideas/topics for 2025 Intervening code cycle.

Chief Crystal Sujeski requested forming a fire alarm task group to review all related codes and change proposals as recommendations during the intervening code cycle. Guest Joseph Cervantes suggested Section 909 of the CFC be looked at as well. Member

Richard Roberts also suggested looking at Section 915 relating to carbon monoxide detection as the language is unclear in the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code. Member Christopher Creamer informed the committee that he is starting up a national workgroup to correlate NFPA 72 and the International Fire Code (IFC) to harmonize certain terms and merge them together and will most likely start with public inputs for NFPA 72, 2028 edition. Chief Crystal Sujeski requested to be included in the workgroup discussions. Chairperson Michael Huang will consider appointing a Co-Chair for the workgroup and will follow up with Chief Sujeski.

E. **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for early fire detection (Chief Crystal Sujeski)**
Chief Crystal Sujeski informed the committee that CFC, 2025 Edition, Chapter 1207 will be the main section for Energy Storage Systems and will be monitoring what's going in the IFC 2027 Edition. Guest Joseph Cervantes informed the committee that there are container units that are being shipped in have pre-installed fire alarm equipment that is being installed by a non-licensed integrator or installer and a lot of the systems installed are not listed. Member James Carver brought up the fact that, in his experience, he has seen many of these containers have passed the warranty period just from sitting on ships for years. Member David Myers attested to the previous comments, and added, that he has encountered over 50 percent failure rate when inspecting these containers.

4. ROUNDTABLE

Member Shane Clary informed the committee of the Group B Code Hearings and how they may conflict with the next FAAC meeting date on May 7, 2025. Many of the members and Chiefs of OSFM will be in attendance. Chairperson Michael Huang stated the BML team will work offline on selecting an alternate date that works with the availability of the committee members.

Member Sagiv informed the committee that it is now clear in the CFC, 2025 edition that only UL 268 smoke detectors are allowed to be connected to an R2 in Universities. Also, there will be a major change to remove the requirements for all sprinklers in elevator pits due to the adoption of NFPA 13, 2025 and will be effective in January 2026.

Member Christopher Creamer informed this committee that the committee to update NFPA 1225 to the 2027 Edition met last month in Denver and there is desire to submit several Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) to make major changes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Joseph Cervantes brought up a previous discussion of forming a workgroup concerning construction fire protection and recommends the committee to continue to explore this conversation. Additionally, there was a lot of feedback from ICC action hearing on a proposal submitted by Guest Joseph Cervantes and Member James Carver through the Southern California Equipment and Devices Committee.

Chief Crystal Sujeski asked the committee if anyone is aware of any code change proposals for Group B coming from this committee. Guest Maria Marks stated that there is a remote inspection and testing proposal that was submitted as well as a group within the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) that submitted a smart building annex with guidelines included to start the conversation on smart buildings. Member Richard Roberts stated that there is a proposal that has been submitted for the International Residential Code (IRC). They are

seeking to require fuel, gas detection in detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhomes not more than 3 stories that have known fuel gas source, mainly liquified petroleum (LP) gas and natural gas. He will send Chief Sujeski the proposal.

Member Richard Roberts informed the committee that there will be a Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) study that will be released within the next 2-3 weeks but has to do with a literature search to determine if the current CO alarm thresholds are providing adequate life, safety protection.

Guest John Bennett informed the committee that he has recently seen CO2 as a refrigerant in a grocery store application.

Chief Brice Bennett informed the committee that Chief Daniel Berlant sends his regards for his absence at this meeting.

6. UPCOMING DATES FOR 2025

May 7, 2025, 10:00AM – 12:00PM Pacific Time - Hybrid (Zoom)

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Michael Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM. Member James Carver motioned to adjourn the meeting and Member Richard Roberts seconded.