# FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
# MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

*Hybrid Committee Meeting*

**Meeting Location:**
Natural Resources Agency Building
715 P Street, 2nd Floor, Room 2-310
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Zoom Meeting Option**

**Meeting ID:** 838 1154 3233
**Passcode:** 623449

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

Chairperson Greg Andersen provided the welcome and introduction.

### B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON**
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
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai – San Francisco Fire Department
Shane Clary – Bay Alarm Company
Rick Lewis – Sabah International

**MEMBERS ABSENT**
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
Howard Hopper – Underwriters Laboratories

**GUESTS PRESENT**
Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe
Darryl Engel – Intertek

**OSFM STAFF**
Greg Andersen, Chairperson
Jinaki Bahati
Michael Huang
Galileo Atalig
David Castillo
Christopher Dale
Thomas Setnan
Michael Hill
Jeffrey Schwartz

**C. Introductions**
All attendees present and on the phone introduced themselves.

**D. Approval of Meeting Minutes – 02/07/2024 (Attachment 1), 05/15/2024 (Attachment 2), and 9/17/2024 (Attachment 3).**
Member Rick Lewis motioned to approve the February 7th minutes, Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, seconded. Member Shane M. Clary motioned to approve the May 15th minutes, member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, seconded. Member George Barnes motioned to approve the September 17th minutes, member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, seconded. Seven out of twelve members approved of all three minutes without further comments or corrections.

**E. Announcements and Division Updates.**
Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that Michael Huang is the new Program Coordinator for Building Materials Listing Program (BML). Additionally, the revised Fire Alarm Advisory Committee Charter is available online. Currently, there are two new committee member letters that are currently still pending approval. Additionally, Vickie Sakamoto has been appointed as the Assistant State Fire Marshal.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

**A. Review Drafted Phone Line Emulator Informational Bulletin – (Attachments 4 and 5)**
Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai elaborated on the intent of this information bulletin. It is to provide educational information to the designers, owners, and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) on the requirements for Phone Line Emulators. It includes code information and a five-point checklist to adhere to for compliance purposes. Member Shane M. Clary highlighted the need for this information bulletin by explaining how these devices are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and interconnection signals to fire alarm systems is not being verified by AHJs. All committee members agreed that it is important to publish the information bulletin. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai motioned to give a recommendation to publish this as an informational bulletin and member George Barnes seconded. Seven out of twelve members voted in recommendation that an informational bulletin on this issue be published.

**B. Code Proposal Updates**
Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee of the second International Code Council (ICC) code hearings that took place under the new cycle. All proposals moving

forward will now be heard in 2026. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai informed that the California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) already approved the adoption of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 and NFPA 13, 2025 editions. Member Shane M. Clary informed that NFPA 70 is being rewritten and will be voted on by NFPA next year and ratified in August by the Standards Council. Additionally, there will be several new documents coming out, NFPA 715, NFPA 915, and NFPA 420.

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Manual Fire Alarm Pull Box Listing Issue – (Attachment 6)

Michael Huang informed the committee that the OSFM has started the process of requesting specific sample pull station models for investigation by BML to confirm that the models listed comply with the California amendments. Those identified as questionable will be required to be returned to the testing lab and must provide confirmation from the lab that the models comply with California amendments. Member George Barnes inquired if the OSFM intends to adopt the newer edition of Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) Standard 38 that UL has been working on that address the pull and hand issues. Chairperson Greg Andersen will investigate this to confirm.

### B. Code Interpretation Request for 24-hour Battery Testing for Fire Alarm Systems – (Attachment 7)

Michael Huang informed the committee of the issue regarding NFPA 72, 14.4.3.2 (8), which outlines the method for testing batteries annually, but does not explicitly say that the battery must be depleted for all 24-hours. Feedback and recommendations are being requested from the committee on how to address this matter. Member Shane M. Clary commented that since there is no such requirement for 24-hour testing of batteries within NFPA 72, that AHJs are misinformed about requiring this test, and stressed the potential risks after conducting this 24-hour battery test. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai commented saying 24-hour battery testing should only be required for the initial acceptance testing. Member Rick Lewis commented saying the AHJs are enforcing the full 24-hour battery test repeatedly, which degrades the battery significantly. Member Shane M. Clary highlighted the need for a public comment be submitted to revise NFPA 72 to determine if this test is required or not. Member George Barnes suggested potentially reaching out to battery manufacturers and conducting more research. Each member of the committee was called upon to give their recommendation on this issue.

### C. Updated Committee Charter – (Attachment 8)

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that the new committee charter has been approved and posted online

## 4. ROUNDTABLE

Member Shane M. Clary informed the committee that the California Energy Commission (CEC) is currently going through rule making and they're looking at standby power on various household appliances, including smoke detectors, CO, and CO2 Detectors. The Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFAA) and the Security Industry Association (SIA) are looking into this to make sure that this will not require an on and off switch on these devices

since a fire alarm system needs to always be powered. Public comments can be submitted through November 19, 2024.

Member Rick Lewis inquired about the location of the information bulletin regarding system upgrades and if it needs to be readdressed. Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that older informational bulletins may not be posted on the OSFM website due to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues. If another information bulletin needs to be written or if the old information bulletin needs to be reposted, then the Code Development and Analysis Division can be contacted for more guidance. Member George Barnes recommended that the information bulletin regarding this be reposted

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2025**

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that the next meeting will be held February 5, 2025, 3:00PM – 5:00PM in Palm Springs, California.

**7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Greg Andersen adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M. PST.