
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2024

Hybrid Committee Meeting



Meeting Location:

Natural Resources Agency Building
715 P Street, 9th Floor, Allen Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Zoom Meeting Option

Meeting ID: 827 6015 2351

Passcode: 046851

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Introductions

Members Present:

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
Jay Levy, California Automatic Fire Alarm Association
Nanci Timmins, Department of Health Care Access and Information
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, San Francisco Fire Department
James Carver, Public/End User/Consultant

Members Absent:

Rick Lewis, Sabah International
Richard Roberts, National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company

Office of State Fire Marshal Staff:

Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Greg Andersen, Chairperson and Chief of Fire Engineering & Investigations
Crystal Sujeski, Division Chief of Code Development
Jinaki Bahati, AGPA BML Program
Michael Huang, BML Program Coordinator
Galileo Atalig, Mechanical Engineer
Ben Ho, Retired Annuitant
David Castillo, Retired Annuitant
Christopher Dale, Division AGPA
Thomas Setnan, SSA Regulation Analyst
Michael Hill, SSM 1
Jeffrey Schwartz, DSFM Supervisor
Jamie Sammut, CALFIRE Attorney

Public Guests:

Joseph Cervantes – Space Age Electronics
Christopher Shimaoka – National Fail-Safe
Wayne Moore

Chairperson Greg Andersen provided the welcome and introduction.

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Jinaki Bahati took roll call and determined that we had a quorum.

C. Introductions

All attendees present and, on the phone, introduced themselves.

D. Bagley-Keene Presentation

CAL FIRE Attorney Jamie Sammut shared a PowerPoint Presentation and provided background information on the new Bagley-Keene process regarding Fire Engineering and Investigations committee meetings. Jamie informed there is no requirement by Bagley-Keene that a state body is to take meeting minutes. Discussions that can potentially be agenda items should not take place with less than two members present.

E. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – 2/7/24 and 5/15/24

Chairperson Greg Andersen asked the committee if there were any edits or comments to the draft meeting minutes. Member David Myers informed of a correction needed on the February 7, 2024, meeting minutes; item #4C. Jinaki will amend and resend to the committee.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Virtual workgroup on the Informational Bulletin on Phone Line Emulator

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai motioned to have an information bulletin developed regarding the concerns over phone line emulators. Member George Barnes seconded. Further discussion and decision will be tabled until after viewing Guest Wayne Moore’s presentation.

B. Task Group Report: CFC Section 907.6.4 Zones update

Chief Crystal Sujeski informed there was no update at that time. She provided information on the code packages for the next triennial are now in 45-day public comment period. Any further development of amendments or code language for clarity would have to wait until the intervening code cycle. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai will send the proposal as public comment on the California Building Standard Commission and motioned to vote on aligning the California Fire Code (CFC) with the Model Code. No other member seconded; motion failed. Chairperson Greg Andersen determined that public comments should not come from the OSFM Advisory Committee. Chairperson Greg Andersen will follow up with CAL FIRE legal

on this matter before moving forward. Chief Crystal Sujeski will create a task group to work on this issue and report back to the Committee.

C. Emergency Backup for Alarms and Strobes

Chairperson Greg Andersen provided an update stating that an answer cannot be provided due to possible violation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Division of the State Architect (DSA) has been contacted and there has not yet been a response.

D. Workgroup proposal to make NFPA 72 and the California Fire Code consistent – See Staff Report (Attachment 1)

Form Task Group:

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai motioned to move forward with the recommendation to make the language in the California Fire Code to be consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72. Member Travis Tyler seconded the motion. Chief Crystal Sujeski mentioned that this task group could be all-encompassing and include discussion topics for notification zones, coordination with NFPA 72 and CFC, and emergency backup strobe language. Eight out of eleven members voted in approval of a task group.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Horizontal Two-Way Communication Systems

Chief Crystal Sujeski provided the update on the proposal submitted by Guest Joseph Cervantes. It is currently in the 45-day public comment period. She informed that the Code Advisory Committee did not think that this was necessary and was recommended it to be disapproved. However, the proposal was moved forward regardless, pending input from the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee. Guest Joseph Cervantes provided additional background information on this issue. The proposal is currently in the public comment period.

B. Provide update on items moved to Code Development

On CFC Section 903.3.1.1.1 item #6, Chief Crystal Sujeski provided the update that there is an amendment for this section, item #1, and they are renumbering the following exemption numbers. This is a code proposal that is currently in the public comment period.

C. UL 827 Edition 9 – Proposal to Remove Permanent Work from Home

Chairperson Chief Andersen informed the committee that the issue of a home being used as a central station is currently open for proposals. Member Jay Levy gave further background and explanation on the problems that may arise when a home is used as a central station.

D. Code Proposal Concepts for Discussion

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the Committee of several potential upcoming code proposals. Chief Crystal Sujeski indicated that this could be rolled into the task group that was previously discussed.

New Technologies that comply with NFPA 72 (2025) (NFPA 72 MFVN Presentation - Wayne Moore):

Guest Wayne Moore shared his PowerPoint presentation and provided additional information on the issues with phone line emulators. Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai motioned to recommend the task group draft up an informational bulletin to address these concerns with phone line emulators. Eight out of eleven members voted in favor of drafting an informational bulletin.

4. ROUNDTABLE

Guest Joseph Cervantes brought up the issue regarding battery testing of fire alarm systems. Chairperson Chief Andersen stated this item will be agendaized for the next meeting.

Member George Barnes posed a question to verify the intent in the code for visual notification appliances in an R2 building.

Member Sagiv Weiss-Ishai asked about the voice systems required in daycare Group E Occupancies. Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that this issue will be resolved in an upcoming proposal.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2024

Chairperson Greg Andersen informed the committee that the next meeting will be held November 6, 2024 – Hybrid (Zoom).

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Greg Andersen adjourned the meeting at 12:30 P.M. PDT.