



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE EXTINGUISHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00P.M.
Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Zoom Meeting Conference Call

Meeting ID: 589 249 0488

MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Dysart, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CALSAFE)
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen Company
Randy Rousseau, La Sierra Fire Equipment
J.R. Nerat, Badger/Kidde
James Knowles, Amerex
Ron Tilton, Ansul

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Calderon, Kaiser Permanente
Frank Gardner, Stanford University
Marcus Hernandez, CALFIRE/City of Morgan Hill
Tom Santos, Imperial County Fire District
Patrick Chew, Amador County Fire Protection District
Chris Hoiland, Orange County Fire Protection Company

GUESTS PRESENT

John Huffman, Jorgensen Company
Matthew McCarrick, CALSAFE
Robert Vasquez, CALSAFE

OSFM STAFF

Jeffrey Schwartz, Chairperson, OSFM
Greg Andersen, OSFM
Daniel Berlant, OSFM
Cortney Walker, OSFM
Crystal Sujeski, OSFM
Megan Lopes, OSFM

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Megan Lopes and determined that a quorum (7 of 13) of members was present.

C. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz asked for approval of the minutes for the July 26, 2022 meeting. It was moved by Member Edie Wade to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Member Randy Dysart. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote in favor of approval of the July minutes as presented.

E. Announcements

Chief Greg Andersen welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated it was a pleasure to see everyone at CALSAFE as it was his first meeting. For those members who are retiring he appreciated everyone's years of service and expertise. Chief Andersen stated it was always a pleasure to see everyone and hear any ideas and issues that may be coming up from the industry.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Title 19 Portable Fire Extinguishers Regulations Update

Chairperson Schwartz stated the regulations package is under review. He thanked everyone for their diligence and hard work on the regulations package and has hopes that it will be out for public comment soon dependent upon where it falls in the queue of other pending packages.

Chief Daniel Berlant also thanked everyone for their service on the committee and regulations package. He stated that he is looking forward getting the regulations updated and to good discussion today.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. PFAS Extinguishers

i. Information Bulletin

Chairperson Schwartz opened the conversation to the topic of PFAS Extinguishers which was presented at the CALSAFE meeting. He asked for discussion on what the industry is doing with these extinguishers and how the committee would like to address them in California. If it is decided they will be addressed, an information bulletin would go out to ensure the information is dispersed.

Member James Knowles stated the foam extinguishers have their agent changed every three years so from a manufacturer's standpoint, after the three-year mark the extinguisher would be pulled out since they no longer manufacture the replacement agent.

Member J.R. Nerat stated there are still UL listed foam units and compatible rechargers, as well as some under test right now. Foam extinguishers remain part of NFPA 10 so that should be considered.

Member Darrell Hefley stated that an informational bulletin would be appropriate, in that there will be a lot of questions coming out regarding new agents on the market and replacing extinguishers if replacement agents are not being produced.

Member Edie Wade posed the question, is part of the problem that it is not biodegradable and doesn't break down so that's a hazard of it? Member Nerat answered, that's the fluorine.

Member Knowles also asked about the laws that Governor Newsom signed surrounding PFAS foam in California. He stated this is where the conversation should start.

Member Ron Tilton stated that similar to Halon, the government is still allowed to purchase the foam for servicing existing equipment on site, along with waivers. Member Knowles stated that he thought there were exceptions but is not exactly sure what they are, one being government and the other being refineries.

Member Nerat agreed that any bulletin should start with the statute. Member Wade stated that she searched and found information that the state has passed legislation to ban PFAS by 2028.

Guest John Huffman stated a flyer was sent out by CAL FIRE 21-002 that lists all of the timelines.

Member Nerat stated he has been asked to look into providing a presentation at the next NFPA annual meeting in June and has been provided some information. He recommended a work group be put together to review the current statutes and put all the information forward.

Member Hefley stated that a bulletin would be good to prevent further confusion and give a clear perspective. Also, to ensure that we are in compliance with the Governor's directive and the CAL FIRE bulletin that Guest Huffman presented. He understood that there will be a lot of questions for the industry and the users of the extinguishers.

Chairperson Schwartz stated the idea of presenting this topic early was so there is time to address it. He confirmed there is a bulletin out from CAL FIRE. Chief Andersen stated the bulletin is from the pipeline division which is specifically working on the issues with refineries. He thinks the starting point also includes evaluating the current bulletin to see if it does not cover the questions for portable fire extinguishers. If it doesn't then we can work towards another bulletin to provide that information.

Member Knowles recommended the AES committee join the conversation on this issue as it also applies to their industry. Chairperson Schwartz agreed they do go hand in hand and stated this would be a good topic to bring up in the AES Advisory Committee Meeting open forum. Chief Andersen stated this group could come up with bullet points of information for the bulletin pertaining to fire extinguishers, and AES could also include their points for a comprehensive bulletin.

Member Randy Dysart asked if we should be coordinating with the pipeline division. Chief Andersen stated that is something we will be doing once we gather the information.

Member Knowles also stated on the municipal side, firefighters will also be affected. Chief Andersen stated that is where pipeline is really focusing their issues and to focus on gathering the information we can.

Member Knowles volunteered to be involved in a work group if one is put together.

Member Randy Rousseau stated he can obtain information from companies who work in the disposal of the material. There are some companies out there who are on the cutting edge of this. He stated he would be more than willing to be apart of the work group.

Member Knowles asked if someone from the office can make sure any information that has been put out by the department is provided to the group. Chairperson Schwartz stated we will work on gathering that information and dispersing it.

Chairperson Schwartz stated that a work group will be formed to put together information for a bulletin, however, will wait on appointing members until January when the next committee members are selected. Member Knowles stated as many manufacturers as possible should try to contribute to the work group as they will all have different perspectives.

B. Dates for Upcoming Advisory Committee Meetings

Chairperson Schwartz asked the committee if they would like to keep a similar schedule to the advisory committee meetings for next year being the third week of the first month of the quarter at 10:00 A.M. (PDT). No objections were made.

Member Knowles stated the Zoom meetings have been working well, however, will there be one meeting a year that is preferred to be in person? Chairperson Schwartz stated the office is discussing this. The meeting in January may be in person or a hybrid option.

4. OPEN FORUM

There was no comments for open forum.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. (PDT). Chairperson Schwartz adjourned the meeting with no objections at 10:33 A.M. (PDT).