



STATE FIRE MARSHAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 26, 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
Frank Gardner, Stanford University
Marcus Hernandez, CALFIRE/City of Morgan Hill
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen Company
Chris Hoiland, Orange County Fire Protection Company
Randy Rousseau, La Sierra Fire Equipment
J.R. Nerat, Badger/Kidde
Ron Tilton, Ansul
Robert Calderon, Kaiser Permanente

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Santos, Imperial County Fire District
Patrick Chew, Amador County Fire Protection District
James Knowles, Amerex

GUESTS PRESENT

John Huffman, Jorgensen Company
Jeff Wright, Jorgensen Company

OSFM STAFF

Jeffrey Schwartz, Chairperson, OSFM

Al Adams, OSFM
Greg Andersen, OSFM
Vikkie Franklin, OSFM
Toshiko Stockwell, OSFM
Megan Lopes, OSFM

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz and determined that a quorum (9 of 13) of members was present at the start of the meeting. A quorum of 10 of 13 members was determined as the meeting progressed.

C. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz asked for approval of the minutes for the December 7, 2021 and January 25, 2022 meetings. It was moved by Member Darrell Hefley to approve the minutes for both meetings; motion seconded by Member Marcus Hernandez. Motion was carried with an 8:1 vote in favor of approval of the minutes for both meetings. Member Frank Gardner had technical difficulties and was unable to place a vote.

E. Announcements

Chief Al Adams welcomed everyone to the meeting. He wanted to inform the group of staff changes in the OSFM. There is now a new Director of CAL FIRE Joe Tyler. Chief Daniel Berlant has also been promoted to Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation. Vikkie Franklin has been promoted to a Staff Service Manager II and will be overseeing administrative operations of the office. Chief Adams expressed thanks and best wishes to Vikkie as she embarks on her new endeavor. Chief Adams also welcomed Megan Lopes to the department as she will be assisting the programs with regulations. The department will be looking to fill several more upcoming positions. Chief Adams spoke on GOVMotus and how the department will continue to make advancements, as well as, make the program more user friendly. He encouraged anyone with any concerns or comments to keep the department involved with those issues. Chief Adams concluded by expressing his condolences on behalf of himself and the department, to La

Sierra Fire Equipment on their loss of Hector Rousseau, as this is a great loss to the industry.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Portable Fire Extinguishers Regulations Update

Workgroup Updates

i. Tag Signature Workgroup

Chairperson Jeffrey Schwartz introduced Member Randy Dysart to discuss this topic, as it was tabled at the previous meeting.

Chairperson Schwartz shared the document with the group and summarized the discussion from prior meetings in regard to adding a service tag sample to the definition of a signature. Chief Al Adams proposed a question as to what an original hard copy is. Chairperson Schwartz explained the hard copy is the original paper application. Now that GOVMOTUS has been introduced, the group has determined that the language "hard copy" should be removed since applications can now be submitted electronically. Member Darrell Hefley proposed a revision to the wording so that on the original copy of the application you are also required to submit a tag signature sample. Member Marcus Hernandez proposed that the current text captures that requirement already. Chairperson Schwartz clarified with Member Hefley that the removal of "hard copy" covers what the group is trying to accomplish. Chief Greg Andersen proposed the clarification that the tag signature sample is required at the time of the original application or renewal. It was moved by Member Dysart to accept section 557.19 (e) as amended; motion seconded by Member Edie Wade. Roundtable vote was conducted now including a tenth member; motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

B. Renewal unless you are employed by a licensed concern

Section 595.9 (e)

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- Chairperson Schwartz stated that this topic was discussed internally with Chief Adams and presented to the group the new language proposed. This new language proposes a less than one year grace period to not be employed for renewal. Member Dysart proposed that the language be consistent amongst other programs with a two year period. Member Wade confirmed with Chairperson Schwartz that he will be sending the committee members this document for review. Chairperson Schwartz addressed that the language is consistent amongst the current Title 19 regulations which allows for a one year grace period for renewal after the certification has expired before it is considered an original application. Member Wade asked how this affects employees who are terminated. Chairperson Schwartz stated that the employee is

allowed a one year grace period to find a new employer so they do not have to start over with an original application for renewal. Member Dysart expressed concern that a year seems to be too short of an amount of time and referred to other programs in Title 19 who are allowing two years. Chief Adams understands the concern in regard to making it consistent, however, the program requirements for certification are different amongst the various programs. Member J.R. Nerat clarified that they may have more than a year depending on where in the calendar year the termination falls in comparison to renewal. Chairperson Schwartz confirmed that they are given a minimum of one year to show proof of employment to the OSFM. Member Hefley motioned to approve as written; Member Ron Tilton seconded. Further discussion was had amongst the committee members in regard to new employment for someone with a license on hold due to renewing without an employer. Chief Andersen presented the group with further language from the legislation that Member Hefley requested to amend the motion to accept the additional language to 595.9 (e). Member Tilton again seconded. Roundtable vote was taken; all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Hefley addressed the status of the regulation package now that these sections were resolved. Chairperson Schwartz stated there were still some definitions up for discussion.

C. Definition Discussion

i. Section 557.5 (g)

Chairperson Schwartz referenced an email from Member Nerat and presented it to the group for further discussion. Member Nerat referenced Section 557.5 (g) where he clarified the language to better meet the objective than the existing language. Member Hefley motioned to accept as written; motion seconded from Member Dysart. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

ii. Section 575.8

Member Nerat presented Section 575.8 which was amended to include SFFF extinguishers. He further clarified the language to accommodate the various types of extinguishers and the best way to service according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Member Hefley motioned to amend and adopt; motion seconded by Member Wade. Member Dysart questioned if AFFF and FFFP are still valid agents to be used. Member Nerat addressed the question by confirming that there is nothing in place that prohibits their use requiring them to remain in the regulations. Member Chris Hoiland proposed that a definition of SFFF also be included in the regulation. Member Hefley amended the motion to accept both the

new definition and the new text; motion seconded by Member Wade. No further discussion was had; motion accepted unanimously.

Chairperson Schwartz readdressed Member Hefley's question of where the regulations package sits now after having addressed the definitions. Member Hefley motioned to move the package out of committee and to OSFM. Chief Adams asked that the committee address the status of the exchange language. Member Hefley stated the committee felt it best to remove the exchange language from the regulation due to the current regulations restricting legitimate business practices. Member Dysart also believes there are mechanisms in place to address fraudulent issues. Chief Adams proposed an information bulletin to address potential questions as they come up in the future. After further discussion, Member Hefley reinforced his motion to move the package forward; motion seconded by Member Nerat. Motion to move the package out of the committee and to the OSFM passed unanimously.

Chairperson Schwartz thanked the committee members for their diligent work and informed the group that he will make the changes agreed upon and disperse the final copy to all members for approval.

3. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

4. OPEN FORUM

Member Dysart brought to the attention of the group the issue of fire extinguisher cabinet scoring. Currently, there is a district who is requiring replacement fire extinguisher cabinet fronts with scored plexiglass. Member Dysart expressed concern for the cost this is imposing on clients. Chairperson Schwartz has received other correspondence in regard to this issue and confirmed there is no ordinance in place enacting this. Chairperson Schwartz and Chief Andersen proposed a code interpretation as a solution to ensure what is installed is within the current regulation. Member Gardner stated this issue goes beyond plexiglass and is a broader issue of proper installment. He gave an example of tempered glass being installed without a breaker bar to accompany it allowing access to the extinguisher. Member Wade inquired on how many jurisdictions are currently impacted. Chairperson Schwartz confirmed it is one district.

Member Nerat expressed that the manufacturer sets the design requirements and any replacement front should be in accordance with those requirements. After further discussion, a consensus was made to

move forward with developing a code interpretation to help resolve this issue.

Member Rousseau presented a question as to whether the OSFM or field members have seen a monitor attached to service tags by the owner in order to prevent theft and fraud. No members of the group recalled having seen these monitors in the field. Member Rousseau stated he will obtain photo documentation of the monitors for reference.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. (PDT) via Zoom. A motion to adjourn was made by Member Dysart and seconded by Member Hernandez. Roundtable vote was called; all in favor, none opposed; motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 11:32 A.M. (PDT).