



STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FIRE EXTINGUISHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, Meeting Minutes, 9:00 A.M. to  
12:00P.M. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
The Natural Resources Building  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, Ca 95814 – Room 2-301

Meeting ID: 833 8759 7767

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Vasquez, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CAL SAFE)  
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment  
Marcus Hernandez, City of Morgan Hill  
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen Company  
Isaac DeFee, Cintas Corporation  
Randy Rousseau, La Sierra Fire Equipment  
James Knowles, Amerex  
Randy Dysart, CAL SAFE (retired)  
Shelly Beach, San Bernadino County Fire Department

MEMBERS ABSENT

J.R. Nerat, Presto  
Rebeca Leda, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District  
John Huffman (Alternate), Jorgensen Company  
Garth Embree (Alternate), Amerex

GUESTS PRESENT

Chad Murbach, Jorgensen Company

## OSFM STAFF

Brice Bennett, Chairperson, OSFM

Greg Andersen, OSFM

Jeffrey Schwartz, OSFM

Michael Hill, OSFM

Adam Stewart, OSFM

Chris Dale, OSFM

Megan Lopes, OSFM

Thomas Setnan, OSFM

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### **A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing**

Chairperson Brice Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT). Logistics briefing was provided by Chairperson Brice Bennett.

### **B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum**

Roll call was conducted by Adam Stewart and determined that a quorum (9 of 11) of members was present.

### **C. Introductions**

All attendees introduced themselves.

### **D. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Chairperson Brice Bennett asked for approval of the minutes for the April 16th, 2024, meeting. Member Marcus Hernandez moved 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 April meeting minutes as presented.

### **E. Announcements**

Chief Greg Andersen announced that Michael Hill is a new Staff Services Manager for Fire Engineering & Investigation and will be partnering with Cortney Walker.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Division Report**

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated currently there are 480 concern/company licenses and 2,035 certificate of registration holders with OSFM. Chairperson Brice Bennett mentioned that the numbers are a little lower than last year for this time. He mentioned for unknown reasons, people have not been as diligent on their renewals this year.

### **B. Committee Charter update**

Chief Greg Andersen stated that he wanted to give an update on membership and the Committee Charter. Chief Andersen mentioned, some questions were raised about Bagley-Keene for the division committee meetings. Chief Andersen mentioned that he had a legal review done on this concern and was informed that there are a couple of different levels of Bagley-Keene. Chief Andersen stated that since we are an advisory committee, we weren't violating any of the concerns that were in question. Chief Andersen stated that OSFM will still do our best to meet Bagley-Keene standards for all our division committee meetings.

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned that for the next committee meeting in October, we will have a short presentation from our legal counsel on summarizing Bagley-Keene and some of the issues that we are dealing with.

Chief Greg Andersen also mentioned that we have been in the process of rewriting the charter. He stated that drafts have been written and are making their way through legal to get approved. Chief Andersen also mentioned that we are looking at the membership makeup of all our advisory committees on appointments and reappointments, to make sure there is a balanced group.

Chairperson Brice Bennett announced that there will be a new Fire Extinguisher coordinator starting on July 31st. Chairperson Brice Bennett mentioned he was going to be Sacramento based and will be introduced at the next meeting in October. Chairperson Bennett also stated that there will be a new AES coordinator as well starting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month.

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned that since the new AES coordinator will be based in Southern California, both new AES and FE coordinators will be crossed trained on inspections, with the intention on getting turnaround times up on both programs' inspections.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Pearson Vue Exam Authorization (Attachment #1)**

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that Pearson Vue is the company that OSFM uses for administering the exams for the type 1, 2 & 3 tests within the certificate of registration. Chairperson Bennett stated that Fire Engineering & Investigation will be changing the application process for all programs with the help of Pearson Vue. Chairperson Bennett stated hopefully by October 1<sup>st</sup>, applicants will be “self-certifying” with Pearson Vue before even applying to one of our programs. This will make the process much more efficient and streamlined. Chairperson Bennett mentioned that we will no longer be the gatekeeper for people to go and take exams for our programs. Chairperson Bennett also stated that we will be reaching out through information bulletins when we are 100% certain for the October 1<sup>st</sup> launch date. He mentioned that when this process starts with Pearson Vue October 1<sup>st</sup>, we need to make sure that the industry knows that there will be a three-day period from September 27<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, where applicants will not be allowed to take the exam.

Member Randy Dysart asked; after an applicant takes the exam, they will be able to claim they have passed the exam, even though they have not been licensed?

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that was correct.

#### **B. Lithium-Ion Battery Extinguishers – Randy Dysart**

Member Randy Dysart started this topic with sharing a video for the committee, of a Lithium-Ion battery igniting in a motorcycle shop during closed business hours. The video was shown for informational purpose only.

Member Randy Dysart stated to the committee and to OSFM his concern about misleading information being presented to the public about Lithium-Ion fires and products to put out those fires. Member Dysart mentioned that these types of fires are not incipient fires, and the general public should never even attempt to put out such a fire. Member Dysart shared his concern with OSFM in hopes that they could help putting out an informational bulletin and other forms of information, educating the public on the dangers of these type of fires. He stated that the public should immediately call their local fire department to handle these types of fires because there is no suitable extinguishing method to use, despite products out for sale claiming to be able to extinguish such fires.

Member James Knowles stated support for Member Randy Dysart with some key items for safety with these types of battery fires. Member Knowles stated that there is no extinguisher on the market in the United States that has a C class rating that also works on Lithium batteries. He mentioned that key distinction because these are type C hazards that will discharge its electrical charge at some point during this runaway process. Member Knowles also stated that you would need a type A, B, C & D rated extinguisher to fight these types of fires and there is simply no product that exist on the market today.

Member James Knowles mentioned to the committee that he will have an informational discussion on this topic at the CalSafe convention in Valencia later this year. He mentioned that it would be an open discussion because there are no solutions at this time for handling such fires.

Member Randy Dysart shared with the committee one of the many examples of a company (Victory Fire & Gas) that claims they have an extinguisher that can put out Lithium battery fires. Member Dysart shared his concern with making such claims and is looking for help from OSFM to combat such misleading products.

Member James Knowles stated that to obtain a class C rating, the agent inside an extinguisher must not conduct electricity up to 100,000 volts. Member Knowles mentioned that the extinguisher used in the example from Member Dysart, clearly did not meet a class C rating.

Member Randy Rousseau stated that he spoke to Victory Fire & Gas at a show in Las Vegas about that extinguisher they were claiming can put out Lithium battery fires. Member Rousseau addressed his concerns with the owner of the company and asked him to show something other than a class A rated extinguisher and the owner could not. Member Rousseau agrees with Member Dysart on the very misleading information that companies like Victory are putting out in the market to the general public.

Member Randy Rousseau mentioned another dangerous point to these Lithium fires, is the off gases that they give. The general public most likely would not know how dangerous inhaling some of these gases are trying to put out Lithium battery fires.

Member Randy Dysart also followed up the dangers of someone trying to put out a Lithium battery fire with the possibility of explosion, severely injuring somebody trying to get in close proximity to put out the fire.

Member James Knowles stated that these types of battery fires will burn themselves out when they run out of fuel, but the concern is in the time it takes to burn themselves out, they are catching everything around them

on fire as well. Member Knowles stated how dangerous these fires can be because of the extreme heat and possible projectiles that could shoot out. Member Knowles mentioned that he tells his clients to simply populate there building with fire extinguishers to protect their contents.

Member Randy Rousseau stated the concern to the committee because of how many of these types of batteries are in people's homes that have no idea that there is no extinguishing method to put these types of fires out.

Member James Knowles mentioned since the last meeting in April, he attended NFPA and the Waste Expo, and Lithium battery fires were the biggest topic discussed at both conferences. He stated that within the industry, this is a hugely talked about issue with no solution.

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that he and OSFM are very happy that we continually have these proactive discussions and that he will take Member Randy Dysart's recommendations further up the executive chain to get some type of information or informational bulletin out to the public.

Member Randy Dysart mentioned to the committee possibly getting together to come up with a draft for the informational bulletin OSFM would possibly use.

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that he would be happy to get started working on this and would welcome any information or ideas to help create this informational bulletin. Chairperson Bennett mentioned to submit all information or ideas directly to him.

Chief Greg Andersen stated that he appreciated the discussion topic and agrees how important this issue is and welcomes any information, ideas or input to create a bulletin with other related topics as well.

Member Robert Vasquez mentioned that the company that he works for has a contract for a clean agent system at a Lithium-Ion battery manufacturing plant in San Diego. Member Vasquez mentioned in summary that the manufacturing plant caught on fire and burned for 17 days with two rounds of cleaning agent dropped, sprinkler systems engaged, and fire extinguisher used.

Member Randy Dysart mentioned another concern with products that use Lithium batteries. Member Dysart addressed concerns over manufacturing standards for companies that produce non-OEM products. He mentioned that there is no standard or regulation on the purity of the substances being used.

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that he agrees with Member Randy Dysart's concerns over Lithium battery manufacturers. Chairperson Bennett mentioned that OSFM will explore every option that they have to try and help notify the industry of these dangers. He also mentioned working with code and other state agencies about getting this information out because many agencies will be going to electrification for their vehicle fleets.

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned that he would classify Lithium batteries into three groups. First group would be storage systems, which must comply with UL 9540 & UL 9540a. Second group would consist of vehicle batteries and the third group consisting of consumer products like cell phones. Chief Andersen stated that California did pass a law that required e-bikes and electric mobility devices to meet NFPA and some European standards.

Member James Knowles further expanded on what Chief Greg Andersen mentioned about some of these products not having a UL rating. Member Knowles stated that the UL Research Foundation is still looking into how they can solve this problem and change their testing standards. He mentioned that the industry is always emerging standards and test procedures to help solve this issue.

Chairperson Brice Bennett thanked everyone for the discussion on this topic and mentioned keeping this in the agenda for the foreseeable future.

#### **4. ROUNDTABLE**

Chairperson Brice Bennett opened the floor for a roundtable. Chief Greg Andersen mentioned to the committee that OSFM is updating their exam process. Chief Andersen stated that AES is the first program to have their exam updated and other programs would soon follow. He mentioned that OSFM has a contract with IO Predict to review all program exams and update them to more of a legally defensible industry standard. Chief Andersen also mentioned that candidates after this update, will be able to view what sections they failed and sections they passed.

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that IO Predict is made up of doctorates and laureates from Sacramento State University. Chairperson Bennett mentioned that IO Predict is not trying to make the new exam extremely difficult but more in line with what subject matter experts feel should be on the exams. They are systematically going through the exams to make sure that it's appropriate for our future licensees. Chairperson Bennett stated to

the committee that IO Predict is making sure the questions are valid and pertinent to what they are doing out in the field.

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned that OSFM is also looking at having multiple exams. He stated that all exams given in a program would be equivalent to one another, one would not harder than the other.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Brice Bennett opened the floor to public comment. Member Randy Dysart asked for an update on the FE packages.

Chief Greg Andersen stated that we have a queue where OSFM is moving regulations through and two are high priority at the moment. They are both close to completion and once those are finished, OSFM will be moving on to Portable Fire Extinguishers next. Chief Greg Andersen mentioned that he wanted to apologize to the committee for the lengthy time these packages having been taking but with limited personal last year, it was very difficult to get these finished. Chief Andersen stated having most personal positions filled, OSFM plans to move quicker through these regulations' packages.

Member Edie Wade asked what are the two high priority packages discussed earlier?

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned the AES fee package being one and the other being the updated AES regulations package.

## **6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2024**

October 15<sup>th</sup> Long Beach Pipeline Safety Office  
Chairperson Brice Bennett asked the committee if they would like to continue grouping the Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee meetings the day before the AES Advisory Committee meeting and meeting quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month throughout the year?

Member Edie Wade stated "Yes".

Chief Greg Andersen stated that there would be no need to vote on this topic, that OSFM will present the future meeting dates and if anyone has a conflict, we can discuss that at the next meeting.

Member Edie Wade asked when are renewal letters due?

Chief Greg Andersen stated that OSFM's legal department went through all advisory committee charters, and we are updating all of them for legal reasons.

## **7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Marcus Hernandez and seconded by Member Randy Dysart. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Brice Bennett adjourned the meeting at 10:02 A.M. (PDT).