



STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FIRE EXTINGUISHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Office of the State Fire Marshal Pipeline Safety Division  
3780 Kilroy Airport Way  
Long Beach, Ca 90822, Suite 500

Meeting ID: 812 6546 7262

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  
J.R. Nerat, Presto  
James Knowles, Amerex

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Dysart, CAL SAFE (retired)  
Rebeca Leda, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District  
Shelly Beach, San Bernadino County Fire Department  
John Huffman (Alternate), Jorgensen Company  
Garth Embree (Alternate), Amerex

GUESTS PRESENT

None

OSFM STAFF

Brice Bennett, Chairperson, OSFM

Andrew Henning, OSFM  
Greg Andersen, OSFM  
Jeffrey Schwartz, OSFM  
Cortney Walker, OSFM  
Adam Stewart, OSFM  
Chris Dale, OSFM  
Megan Lopes, OSFM

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

Chairperson Brice Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 (8 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 January 16th, 2024, meeting. It was moved by Member Darrell Hefley to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Member Edie Wade. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote in favor of approval of the January meeting minutes as presented.

### E. Announcements

Chairperson Brice Bennett opened the meeting with introductions and then turned meeting over to Chief Greg Andersen for announcements.

Chief Greg Andersen announced to the committee that Chairperson Brice Bennett has recently been promoted to Supervisor of Fire Engineering and Investigation. Chief Greg Andersen also wanted to welcome Megan Lopes back from maternity leave.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Title 19 Portable Fire Extinguishers Regulations Update

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that the regulations packet is still in the queue and moving forward and that there was nothing new on this topic to report.

### B. Portable Fire Extinguishers and Lithium Batteries

Chairperson Brice Bennett asked the committee if anyone had any updated information on the subject and if anyone desired to continue the discussion on this topic?

Member Edie Wade asked for more clarification on if there was a more concrete date on when the Title 19 Fire Extinguisher Regulation packet was going to go through. Chief Greg Andersen informed Member Edie Wade that due to low staffing the previous year, it was hard to make progress on all of the regulation packets within OSFM. Chief Greg Andersen expects to move much quicker on getting the Fire Extinguisher Regulations packet finished now that staff has increased.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Effective Lithium Battery Fire Protection Advertisements/Claims

Chairperson Brice Bennett mentioned for this topic that Member Randy Dysart was going to lead the discussion but was unable to make the meeting. Topic will be tabled until next meeting when Member Randy Dysart could be present.

Chairperson Brice Bennett did mention that OSFM has started to see more claims from manufacturers that they have created dedicated lithium-ion battery fire extinguishers. He mentioned that there will be more of a thorough discussion at the next meeting about this claim.

#### B. CPSC Warning about Elide Fire Extinguisher Balls

Chairperson Brice Bennett mentioned the warning that came out from Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) about the Fire Extinguishing Ball product. Chairperson Brice Bennett shared the link from CPSC in the group chat for the members to look over. Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that the CPSC went through and utilized some of the UL testing for fire extinguishers and dry chemicals and found that the product does not meet the definition of a fire extinguisher. He mentioned that the CPSC does not recommend using this product as intended. Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that OSFM is going to put out a bulletin as well, that mimics the report/findings of the CPSC.

Chief Jeff Schwartz mentioned that there was not much more he could add to this topic except that they have been dealing with this issue for many years now. Chief Schwartz also mentioned that they have sent out many notices to cease and desist. The last one sent was some time in 2018.

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated one more notable concern with this product is that it has a component of pyrotechnic composition inside of it. He mentioned that California was not keen on having this composition in

the product because of the potential danger for people to have without a license.

Member Robert Vasquez stated that he purchased one on Amazon and that it did not work well. He mentioned that he was pleased with the CPSC for putting this information out and doing the right thing, along with OSFM on getting rid of this product.

Member Marcus Hernandez mentioned that he wanted to support the CPSC and OSFM with the bulletins that are coming out on this product. He stated that if you watch all the demonstrations on this product, the users are in full protection equipment which the potential consumers will not be in when using the product. Member Hernandez also wanted to point out the similarities of lithium-ion battery specific fire extinguishers. He mentioned that unfortunately, purveyors of these products try to be first to market to citizens or the uninformed. Member Hernandez was happy to hear that CPSC and OSFM are coming out with information to the public and fire services that these products are not approved, not tested, and are not regulated.

Member Randy Rousseau mentioned at a show in Las Vegas that he attended, there were companies promoting their lithium-ion battery extinguishers that only had a UL 1A rating, which would be affective for something like a cell phone.

Member James Knowles stated that these extinguishers are 1A rated, which means they are half as effective as water.

Member J.R. Nerat asked the committee if anyone that has purchased one of these products, has a picture of the product they bought? He asked specifically more for the products packaging and what it says on the packaging. Member Nerat was wondering how they were getting around addressing the Federal requirements to get the product into the country without proper labeling.

Member Robert Vasquez mentioned that he thinks he still has the packaging from the product he purchased on Amazon. He stated that he will look for the packaging and get back to the committee on that.

#### 4. OPEN FORUM

Chairperson Brice Bennett opened the floor to open forum.

Chairperson Brice Bennett wanted to bring up a few items that he wanted to discuss a little more in depth at the next meeting. One of those topics is that Fire Engineering & Investigation under the direction of Chief Andrew

Henning is to streamline a lot of our processes. One of these processes is evaluating the possibility of going to an open exam. Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that our office would become a one stop shop, to be more efficient and user friendly to applicants. Essentially an applicant would apply to one of our programs when they have all the required documents along with passing the exam with Pearson Vue for us to review one time if no corrections have to be made, for us to issue a license.

Chief Greg Andersen stated that the advantage of this streamline process is that the applicant has already passed the exam before applying to OSFM and when they go to apply to one of our programs, they would just submit everything all at once, pay and be able to get their license that day.

Member Robert Vasquez asked if this would change the verbiage to Title 19 regarding the amount of time before taking the exam?

Chief Greg Andersen stated that when an applicant visits Pearson Vue's website to sign up to take the exam, they would have a list of requirements needed to properly apply to an exam to the specific program they are wanting to acquire a license for. He stated that an applicant would not just be able to pay a fee and then be qualified. OSFM is working with Pearson Vue to help them confirm whether or not an applicant is qualified and validated if this proposal moves forward.

Member Jamie Knowles stated that he wanted to spend a few minutes to inform the Advisory Committee about FEMA (Fire Equipment Manufacturers Association) and a recent study that they conducted about the carbon footprint of fire extinguishers when used in buildings. Member Knowles wanted to let the committee know that FEMA is a lobbying committee that is made up of fire equipment manufactures around the country. He mentioned that FEMA has been in existence since 1930 and their main agenda is to go around the country and lobby for the portable fire extinguisher industry. Member Knowles stated that recently FEMA has reviewed a study conducted by an engineering firm, Jensen Hughes, about reducing the carbon footprint from portable fire extinguishers in building fires. Member Knowles summarized the report from Jensen Hughes, stating that along with sprinkler systems and fire extinguishers in a building, there is a layered fire protection plan that allows fires to be tackled very quickly, keeping the carbon emissions low from entering the atmosphere. Member Knowles mentioned that he would provide a link in the chat box for the members to view FEMA's website where you can find the 20-page study along with an infographic illustrating the study.

Member Jamie Knowles stated that carbon emissions affect many things in our current world like giving ratings to different buildings in the new construction industry. He stated that more and more companies are

striving for 0 carbon emissions and the portable fire extinguisher industry plays an important part in that equation. Member Knowles wanted to finish by urging the committee to visit FEMA's website and read the study from Jensen Hughes.

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned that the military was looking to get rid of fire extinguishers along with a study FEMA conducted about fixed extinguishing systems within military bases. Chief Greg Andersen asked if those were going to be included in the proposal?

Member Jamie Knowles stated that FEMA does handle this part of the industry. He mentioned that FEMA handles all the portable fire extinguishers, pre-engineered systems, engineered systems, fire equipment cabinets or storage. Member Knowles mentioned that they do not deal with the sprinkler side of the industry.

Chief Greg Andersen asked if the proposal from the military to get rid of fire extinguishers would also include getting rid of fixed extinguishing systems?

Member Jamie Knowles stated "no", not at this point.

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned the national attention that PFAS has received in the news recently. He stated that there has been a new standard with PFAS in drinking water. Chief Andersen stated that water purveyors have 3 years to do a study and then 2 years after that to lower PFAS in drinking water.

Member J.R. Nerat asked if there has been a report for the threshold on an international level?

Chairperson Brice Bennett highlighted from a document that was shared to the committee, that the standard was 4.0 parts per trillion. Chairperson Bennett stated that he provided the link for the article in the chat from the EPA, stating that standard.

Chairperson Brice Bennett stated that he wanted to touch on past standards for having staff reports. He mentioned that staff reports have been revived and that the intent is to give advisory committee members a preview of the topics that will be discussed in the upcoming meeting, along with items that the division is working on. Chairperson Bennett stated that this is in effort to have members ready for fruitful discussions so that all the programs' committees are ready to move on issues much more quickly during the meeting.

Chief Greg Andersen stated that our office is starting to go through and validate our exams. Chief Andersen mentioned that the AES program was going to be the first program reviewed but other programs would follow.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Brice Bennett opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

## 6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Marcus Hernandez and seconded by Member Robert Vasquez. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Brice Bennett adjourned the meeting at 9:35 A.M. (PDT).