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# **PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

## **Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 15th, 2025, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

*Hybrid Committee Meeting*

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### **Meeting Location:**

#### **California Natural Resources Building**

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
715 P Street, Sacramento, Ca 95814  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room 2-301

**Meeting ID:** 845 0158 5423

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Vasquez, California Association of Life Safety and Fire Equipment (CAL SAFE)  
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment  
Kimberly Golding, NAFED  
Chad Murbach, Jorgensen Company  
Isaac DeFee, Cintas Corporation  
Rebecca Leda, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District  
J.R. Nerat, Presto  
Matthew McCarrick, Code Red Fire Inc.

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Eric Stessel, Oakland Fire Department  
Jamie Knowles, Amerex  
Garth Embree (Alternate), Amerex

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Harl Buckridge, AAA Quality Service, Inc.

### **OSFM STAFF**

Terence Liszewski, Chairperson, OSFM  
Brice Bennett, OSFM  
Cortney Walker, OSFM  
Jeffrey Schwartz, OSFM  
Patricia Rock, OSFM  
Adam Stewart, OSFM  
Chris Dale, OSFM

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Chairperson Terence Liszewski called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT). Logistics briefing was provided by Chairperson Terence Liszewski.

### **B. Committee Member Introductions and Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted by Adam Stewart and determined that a quorum (8 of 10) of members was present.

### **C. Introductions of Non-Committee Members**

All attendees introduced themselves.

### **D. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2024**

Chairperson Terence Liszewski asked for approval of the minutes for the October 15th, 2024, meeting. It was moved by Member Robert Vasquez to approve of the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Member Edie Wade. Motion was carried out with a unanimous vote in favor of approval of the October meeting minutes as presented.

### **E. Announcements/Division Updates**

Chief Brice Bennett started by apologizing for OSFM not having the committee meeting in January. Chief Bennett stated that because of the Southern California Fires, most of CALFIRE's staff were utilized to help with the relief efforts for the fires. Chief Bennett also mentioned that Chief Greg Andersen has retired from the Fire Engineering and Investigation Division and that he will be the acting Chief of Fire Engineering and Investigation. Chief Brice Bennett asked the committee for a little patience with this transition of Chief Andersen's retirement and his new role within the division. Chief Bennett also mentioned that he and the program are very excited for the new members that were added to the committee and value their new fresh input to the meetings. There were no other announcements.

Cortney Walker informed the committee on the program discontinuing renewal stickers and moving towards new cards annually that have the licensee's expiration date printed on them. Cortney Walker mentioned that there has been one noticeable issue with the photos being uploaded into the system for new and renewal applications. She stated that OSFM will put out much more clear instructions for photo uploads because licensees will be required every year to upload a new photo on renewal applications. Cortney Walker also highlighted issues with certain file types (Apple AGIC) that when uploading photos, will not populate in Govmotus. She stated that OSFM can only utilize files that are listed in the instructions on the applications. Cortney Walker stated that programs like the Fire Extinguisher Program are having to spend a considerable amount of time cropping photos, which is leading to the decision to reject applications with improper photos. She stated that OSFM will continue to put out instructions and bulletins on the expectations of what the photo should look like when submitted.

Member Kim Golding asked Cortney Walker if OSFM was looking for more of a passport looking photo for the applications.

Cortney Walker stated "yes" and mentioned that is the model to try and emulate as much as possible when submitting a photo for an application. Cortney Walker also mentioned that pictures of cards, like drivers' licenses, will be rejected as well. Applicants need to submit a recent photo of themselves in which 75 percent of the photo is of their face.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. NFPA 10 National Adoption**

Chairperson Terence Liszewski reiterated a previous discussion on adopting the national NFPA 10. Chairperson Laszewski opened up a discussion on the topic for the

California standard for fire extinguisher concerns and the formation of a committee to compare and contrast current Title 19 and NFPA 10. Chairperson Liszewski stated that he would like feedback on just the installation, placement inspection and testing, not the licensing component for concerns.

Member J.R. Nerat stated that the next edition for NFPA (26th edition) will come out at the end of this year and that a new edition is released every four years. Member Nerat mentioned that a previous group was tasked to review the current edition and asked if it would be redundant to ask another group to do the same.

Chief Brice Bennett stated that we would table that topic at the moment and that OSFM will discuss it with Member J.R. Nerat and previous Member Darrell Hefley to review what was discussed in the previous work group meetings in the current NFPA edition.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Committee Membership Update**

There was no further discussion on this topic. This topic was discussed earlier in announcements and division updates.

#### **B. NFPA 10 Work Group**

There was no further discussion on this topic. This topic was discussed earlier in announcements and division updates.

#### **C. Information Bulletin 24-014: New and Renewal Cards to be issued**

Cortney Walker reiterated from earlier discussion that there will be no more renewal stickers. Licensees will now receive a new card with expiration date, every renewal cycle.

#### **D. Informational Bulletin 24-015: Assembly Bill 267- Small Tents**

There was no discussion on this topic.

### **4. OPEN FORUM**

Chairperson Terence Liszewski opened the floor for open forum.

Member J.R. Nerat asked the committee if they had any opinion, he could bring back to other committees in the industry that he is a part of, for fire extinguisher nameplates. He wanted to know if the committee/industry's opinion on whether or not extinguishers need to be more legible, use larger fonts or have too much information on them.

Chairperson Liszewski mentioned to Member Nerat if he could share his email address in the chat, for people to share their thoughts and ideas.

Member Nerat stated that he would share his email and phone number for contact.

Member Robert Vasquez stated that there have been a lot of requests growing for fire extinguisher reports, much like reports that are turned in for the AES program. Member Vasquez stated that they are being driven by a compliance engine in a new third-party

reporting system called "I Role". Member Vasquez asked the committee if anyone had heard of something similar.

Chairperson Terence Liszewski stated that he has not heard of anything pertaining to that.

Member Isaac DeFee stated that he has encountered that in his area. Member DeFee stated that they have a handheld electronic site survey that they use to scan extinguishers, which gives a location descriptor, along with the extinguishers next service date. Member DeFee stated that they have uploaded those scan reports, and their local Fire Marshal has accepted those reports.

Chairperson Terence Liszewski asked Member Rebecca Leda, being with the local AHJ, if she has any requirements like that in her area.

Member Rebecca Leda stated that she has not heard of anything regarding required reports but can ask other inspectors in her jurisdiction and report back to the committee.

Member Kim Golding mentioned that she has been hearing talks about this as well and that they are creating their own PDF format where they are listing out the locations and the type of extinguishers for future service, along with extinguishers that have been serviced. She stated that way has been accepted so far.

Chief Brice Bennett asked who is requiring that.

Member Kim Golding stated that individual districts are requiring that like San Mateo, Monterey County and Richmond. Member Golding mentioned going through and looking at the compliance engine, on a monthly basis, to try and see what's been dated.

Chairperson Brice Bennett asked Member Chad Murbach if he has seen any of this as well.

Member Chad Murbach stated "no".

Member Robert Vasquez stated that he is seeing more of an influx of the new lithium-ion battery pictograph on extinguishers that are being pushed around the state for advertisement. He mentioned that he has not seen too many in the field but that someone is coming up with a pictograph and putting it on the front of an extinguisher. Member Vasquez asked OSFM's stance on the topic or what needs to be done to protect themselves and their company.

Chief Brice Bennett thanked Member Vasquez for noticing this trend and for bringing it to the committee attention. Chief Bennett asked Member Vasquez and the committee if they found something that is not meeting the rules, laws and regulations of California that are currently in place, to please let OSFM know about it. Chief Brice Bennett mentioned that he is unaware of

any new testing on lithium-ion battery extinguishers and is still unsure how physics are involved in extinguishing energy.

Chief Jeffrey Schwartz mentioned going back to Member J.R. Nerat original comment on the extinguisher nameplates having too much information, he felt that this would be a perfect example to discuss in a future nation industry committee meeting that Member J.R. Nerat is a part of. Chief Schwartz mentioned to his knowledge, there is no specific extinguisher for lithium-ion battery fires.

Member J.R. Nerat stated that there were 20 to 30 proposals presented at the NFPA 10 technical Committee a couple of years ago, which were debated heavily but most of the proposals presented at the NFPA 10 Committee on lithium-ion battery fires were rejected.

Chief Brice Bennett asked Member J.R. Nerat if any of the proposals passed with that committee.

Member J.R. Nerat stated that he did not want to speak on behalf of the NFPA 10 Committee, but nothing passed that had to do with lithium-ion batteries. Member Nerat's take away from that committee was that, should an extinguisher even be appropriate in a fire like that because of the thermal runaway. He mentioned the discussions revolved mostly around that topic because of the many associated dangers that can result in fires within lithium-ion batteries. Member Nerat also wanted to point out that lithium-ion battery fires have been a topic for discussion with the NFPA 10 Committee for 10 to 15 years now and it has also been an ever-evolving topic to try and figure out with no industry set standard.

Chief Brice Bennett stated that the speed of innovation and the adoption of safety regulations are very different things, especially for the State of California. Chief Bennett mentioned because this topic innovates so fast and frequently, it most likely will be a reoccurring discussion for this committee and for this division within OSFM.

Member J.R. Nerat mentioned that the NFPA has a new standard and committee (850) that is coming into effect soon, that just addresses batteries.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Terence Liszewski opened the floor for public comment.  
There was no public comment.

## **6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2025**

- A. Tuesday, July 15th, 2025, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)  
Office of the State Fire Marshal  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, McKittrick Conference Room 512  
3780 Kilroy Airport Way, Long Beach, Ca 90806

## **7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Edie Wade and seconded by Member J.R. Nerat. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Terence Liszewski adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m. (PDT).

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