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# GENERAL FIREWORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

## Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

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### Meeting Location

Natural Resources Agency  
715 P St. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Room 2-301  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2775109609?pwd=VHM1VURoZ1Nsa0ZFTVVERW5sczlQZz09&omn=82277379521>

Meeting ID: 277 510 9609

Passcode: GFAC

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

Chief Andersen welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 9:01am. He informed those in the room of the exits and locations of the restrooms, along with remaining professional and courteous in discussions.

### B. Roll Call (Determine Quorum) and Introductions

#### Member Present:

Kevin Crews, Volt Live  
Ian Gilfillan, Pyro-Spectaculars-North  
Amy Nygren, Sacramento Metro Fire District  
Janice Van Mullem, Huntington Beach Fire Department  
Gary Brown, Pyro-Spectaculars  
Linda Hass-Kreman, Phantom Fireworks  
Julie Heckman, American Pyrotechnic Association  
Dennis Revell, Revell Communications  
Tad Trout, TNT Fireworks  
Mark Holthaus, Friends of Amateur Rocketry

#### Members Absent:

Kevin Kelley, Disney Entertainment Productions  
Sherry Souza, Fireworks & Stage FX America  
Megan Quinn, Corona Fire Department  
Antonio Solares, Orange County Fire Authority  
Gregory McCanless, Jake's Fireworks  
David Nordling, Reaction Research Society

#### OSFM Staff:

Chief Greg Andersen, CALFIRE, Division Chief  
Chief Jeff Schwartz, CALFIRE, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Chairperson Caleb Phillips, CALFIRE, Deputy State Fire Marshall Specialist III

Vijay Mevani, CALFIRE, Deputy State Fire Marshall Specialist III  
Michael Hill, Staff Services Manager I  
Christopher Dale, CALFIRE, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Thomas Setnan, CALFIRE, Staff Services Analyst

**Guests:**

James Eadie, Rocket Motor Hobbyist  
Frank Perez, Disney Live Entertainment, Senior Fireworks Designer  
Barbara Law, Sacramento Metro Fire Department, Fire Marshal

Chris Dale conducted roll call, and had everyone introduce themselves. Quorum was not initially established until later in the meeting, after other members joined; quorum established at 9:17am.

**C. Approval of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes – (Attachment 1)**

Chief Andersen noted the changes had been made to the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes that were discussed at September's committee meeting and then asked for approval. Member Amy Nygren motioned for approval; member Dennis Revell seconded motion. All present committee members voted in favor of approving meeting minutes.

**D. Approval of September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes – (Attachment 2)**

Chief Andersen asked for approval of September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Member Ian Gilfillan motioned for approval; member Julie Heckman seconded motion. All present committee members voted in favor of approving meeting minutes.

Member Tad Trout did have a question regarding the workgroup for NERIS. Chief Andersen shared that beta testing is currently taking place and expects that there to be feedback. Some of the categories are not nationally recognized or needed, which means there are categories that are only specific to California. Chief Andersen will check in with Chief Morgan to obtain a better updated on the happenings of the rollout for NERIS. Additionally, Chief Andersen is curious about how the various aspects of the categories will be represented within the new system, e.g. safe and sane fireworks may be rolled into Ground Display but not all ground display fireworks are "safe or sane". Member Dennis Revell asked where would reloadable shells shot out of a ground-based mortar fall under? Chief Andersen says the aerial category but even then, he is curious to know how the reportable categories will be representative of the statistical analysis needed for fireworks within the various states. Chief Morgan's team is looking into this and knows there is a lot of concerns with how this new improved reporting system will work out.

Member Tad Trout had an additional question on the September meeting minutes, dealing with seized fireworks and Chief Andersen receiving an update on confiscated fireworks from the Arson and Bomb Unit (ABU) regarding when devices are considered hazardous materials. Unfortunately, the ABU leader, Chief Brian Gouge, was absent due to illness and could not provide an update for the

committee. Chief Andersen was able to share that OSFM has taken in illegal fireworks from all over the state of California. To date, we have shipped out just under 100,000 pounds for destruction. The pace has been picked up and OSFM is trying to clear out some storage space. Chairperson Caleb Phillips clarified the question further that Member Tad Trout was attempting to have answered about when devices are considered hazardous, specifically, who determines whether a seized firework/device is deemed hazardous and by whom. Chairperson Caleb Phillips will make a note to about having that question answered in the next committee meeting.

Member Kevin Crews had a question regarding the NERIS reporting, and how someone could easily put whatever they want on a ground display firework, and all of a sudden, we have aerial displays going up and nothing actually regulating what is being identified on these fireworks. Chief Andersen informed him that is exactly why he would like Chief Morgan to review the categories and raise those questions, but he did note that while that is a question, the devices being identified will come down to the testing of those devices to make sure they are properly labeled.

## **E. Announcements and Division Updates**

Chief Andersen shared divisional announcements and updates. The biggest announcement was Chief Vicki Sakamoto being appointed as Assistant State Fire Marshal, who has an extensive background with fire service. Additional announcements spoke of several informational bulletins (IB), which can be found on the Office of State Fire Marshal website. These IBs included information about new cards for certifications and licenses, and updated testing procedures with Pearson VUE, where testing for the licenses or certification is done before applying with the State Fire Marshal's office.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Fireworks Regulation Updates**

Chairperson Caleb Phillips provided an update on regulations. They are currently sitting with our regulations team, and he has specifically met with them to do as much work upfront with the changes and justification of changes before it goes to the Code Development Analysis Team and then the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

### **B. Interstate Compact White Paper**

Chief Andersen shared that the Interstate Compact White Paper is sitting with Chief Berlant. OSFM will likely not have much more updates on this unless the Governor approves it, at which point we would then get feedback on it. Additionally, the bigger thing is setting up another meeting with the Nevada State Fire Marshal because there were some key individuals missing from the last meeting due to wildfires. Furthermore, the last Chief Andersen heard that during the last legislation cycle, Nevada had a bill that would allow them to get data from the pyrotechnics sources, but that bill did not pass. The next step is identifying where to go from here, and what opportunities exist to address illegal fireworks in both Nevada and California.

Member Ian Gilfillan inquired on when a new meeting would be scheduled. Chief Andersen shared that he would have liked to see it within the next month but due to the Winter schedules and holidays, fire services tend to slow down. He has already reached out to them but nothing concrete is set in place yet.

Member Amy Nygren had a comment about the universal policy for stores to ask for a driver's license, is it possible to just ask the vendors to not sell to anyone having a California Driver's license, would it not be just that simple. Naturally, it is not something we can tell them to do but is it something to suggest since they are willing to come to the table and discuss how to mitigate the challenge. Chief Andersen noted that while it's simple in theory, there is a lot of hurdles to clear specifically because of interstate commerce trade and the industry willingness to lose out on sales. Also, the that just because they are from California does not mean they will use them illegally.

Chief Andersen circled back to this topic later in the meeting when Dennis Revell arrived so that he could provide an update and some thoughts regarding the issue of illegal fireworks and how we must address the challenges quickly. A statement was prepared by Dennis Revell, and reads as follows:

*"Good morning. Nearly a year ago, on November 29, 2023, this committee unanimously adopted a resolution I proposed on behalf of TNT Fireworks. The resolution urged State Fire Marshal Daniel Berlant to seek Governor Newsom's approval to initiate a collaborative effort addressing the single largest firework-related challenge facing our state: the illicit importation of illegal fireworks from Nevada into California. Specifically, the resolution called for a Joint CA/NV Illegal Task Force along with a collaborative effort of key stakeholders, including the California Department of Justice, Cal OES, representatives of California fire service organizations, and TNT Fireworks, to explore an Interstate Compact or Agreement with Nevada.*

*I followed through on this committee's request to draft a White Paper, which I delivered on January 30, 2024. It outlined the severe public safety risks, environmental impacts, and the financial strain caused by illegal fireworks entering California, as well as actionable recommendations to mitigate this growing problem. Copies of this document are here for your reference.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, it has been 356 days since we took that critical first step forward.*

*While a growing number of local jurisdictions have expressed their support through letters to the Governor, and a single meeting has occurred between the California and Nevada State Fire Marshal offices, we have yet to see any meaningful progress.*

*Time is not on our side. Unlike California, Nevada's Legislature convenes biennially, and its next session begins in February 2025. If we fail to secure a solid plan of action and consensus before then, we will miss another critical window for change. This delay would push action out by at least two more years--a timeline our communities and first responders cannot afford.*

*It's clear that the Nevada State Fire Marshal's Office, while well-intentioned, lacks the resources and authority to address this issue comprehensively. If we are to succeed, we must pivot our approach—from the top-down model we envisioned to a grassroots, bottom-up strategy. This means engaging with California's FPO groups, and working directly with local fire authorities in Clark and Washoe Counties in Nevada. We must forge a unified, cross-border coalition with urgency, building momentum by February 2025.*

*Today, I challenge this committee: Join me. Let us assemble a delegation—including representatives from the OSFM, FPO leaders from Northern, Central, and Southern California, and fire officials from Nevada—to present our case for immediate action to every relevant group on both sides of the border. This is our opportunity to lead. This is our moment to make a real difference.*

*Our communities are counting on us. Illegal fireworks jeopardize public safety, drain resources, and undermine the integrity of fire prevention efforts across our state. Let's seize this moment to move forward with bold, decisive action. Together, we can turn the tide on this issue and ensure a safer future for all Californians."*

Member Amy Nygren wanted to clarify when the document was written and voted on, since the comment above somewhat conflicts her recollection. Chairperson Caleb Phillips noted that, there was two votes on the White Paper Compact, one in November of 2023 to authorize creation of the White Paper Compact and then the vote in May of 2024 when it was formally recommended to move it forward.

Member Kevin Crews inquired if there was a way to involve the California Department of Transportation and see about having commercial enforcement pull over anyone who they think could potentially have illegal fireworks. Member Ian Gilfillan believes that is part of the strategy behind the White Paper, not only to just do that on the California side but also the Nevada side, because the source is Nevada, and the end user is California. He believes it will help to stem the issue but also set precedent for enforcement that could become a significant deterrent. Member Kevin echoed the recent points and suggested even adding possible prison time along with the because people are getting significantly injured and we need to get these folks off the streets before additional people suffer injury or death.

Member Dennis Revell encouraged the committee to act now on what needs to be done considering many of the individuals involved on both sides are fairly invested in a remedy to help mitigate the problem. He is afraid that come 2026, when Nevada's Governor is up for reelection, we could miss out on an opportunity to see something happen, granted it may not be the end all answer, but it certainly be better than the status quo.

Member Amy Nygren echoed her previous recommendation of having retailers not sell to anyone who has a California Driver's License, and believes it is as simple as that. Member Dennis Revell shared that a few years ago, there was a bill within the Nevada State Legislature to basically improve staffing, resources and jurisdiction for the Nevada State Fire Marshal to oversee firework use and sales, but it was killed after it had passed both Nevada houses because the stores effectively got it killed. Firework sales in Nevada, with exception of reservations are controlled and managed by local counties and not state. Member Amy Nygren believes that the wholesalers, the industry and operators could be more proactive to not sell product to anyone outside of Nevada. As it currently stands, we come with a reactive mindset and not a proactive mindset, in which case the industry could do a much better job at the onset.

Chief Schwartz understands the time crunch, and as it currently stands, we just need to get a meeting set between the two governors so they can have a discussion to move things forward. Member Dennis Revell sees that it doesn't even need to go that far, as the White Paper was for the governors to give the State Fire Marshals, the Attorney General and the Office of Emergency Services to have those conversations with each other to construct a proposal, we don't need the governors to engage one on one to make that happen. Chief Andersen noted that he always tries to be in the loop with the discussions between the governor's office regarding this, but he is not sure how much information he can share but does realize the time constraints and the need to focus on building a cooperative relationship between the states to accomplish similar goals.

### **C. AB 1403 Update – Chief Andersen**

Chief Andersen provided an updated on AB1403. It is currently with Legislative Review and then it goes up to Agency. The report cannot be released until OSFM has approval to do so and as soon as we get that we will be sending it out to all committee members here and from there it becomes a public document.

### **D. Regulation Proposal for New Labeling Requirements – Caleb Phillips (Attachment 3)**

Chairperson Caleb Phillips shared the updated staff report for new labeling requirements. The document is relatively the same except that OSFM was more specific in the retest and recertification periods, changes are noted on page 2 and 3 of staff report.

Member Tad Trout wanted to circle back to the 10-year retesting aspect of the proposal, and specifically his opinion he expressed in the previous discussions regarding the topic. The industry, nor does OSFM have any statistics that are telling us that there is any issue with approved safe and sane fireworks. The only thing he can think of was maybe one incident in LA County that was attested to a safe and sane product causing a fire. The view he has, along with Member Linda Hass-Kreman, is that the retest is not really an issue being that it doesn't present any

problem. Plus, if the plan is to retest the approved products, OSFM could be retesting several 100 items for no real purpose. Additionally, Member Tad Trout noted that Southern Nevada Fire District attempted to do the retesting, and they did 25% of product every year over a four-year period to get 100% retesting and they ended up stopping because they did not see the need, and the items remained compliant. Part of the proposal that we did think was valuable was removing items from the safe and sane list that have not been sold in the last five years, along with providing the FC-number and the EX-number on the list. If there is a decision to bring it back, then we'll get it retested.

Chairperson Caleb Phillips, wanted to be sure he was clear about what Member Tad Trout was suggesting in that they do not agree with any sort of retest period, but you are ok with the 5-year recertification of products. Member Tad Trout agreed but also wanted more information on what the recertification process would involve. Chairperson Caleb Phillips said there was no formal process just yet and wanted to bring it to the committee for suggestions. He does envision it will have a similar feel with the yearly list of new products that are to be added but in reverse.

Member Linda Hass-Kreman noted that the safe and sane lists are getting long and Chairperson Caleb said that is exactly why they would like to go this route of removing products that have not been sold in the last five years. Additionally, by having the EX and FC numbers added Chairperson Caleb Phillips can bypass the book and utilize those number for when he does firework booth inspections, essentially making it easier to confirm safe and sane products.

Chief Schwartz inquired whether we are looking at a listing similar to OSFM's BML program within GOVMOTUS, and Chairperson Caleb Phillips agreed with that suggestion. OSFM would essentially validate that product is still being sold and if so, we would continue to put it on the list but not necessarily retest it since there is no research to suggest that is needed.

Chief Andersen noted that this process will have very similar structure to OSFM's BML program because the current Safe and Sane listing is becoming problematic for OSFM. OSFM would not do an annual one like the BML program but would determine a better time structure for the listing to be revised and edited. He additionally, mentioned that there were some questions surround the lifespan of products within the industry. Member Tad Trout shared that TNT could have product lifespans beyond 50 years, example being Piccolo Pete's or Rambling Flowers. Outside of that what they try to do is if new products are coming on, they will work to remove others from the existing list, so that way they can have a manageable list but in doing that, it could take up to two years to remove those products from the inventory. So maybe instead of a recertification, we do a verification of the products.

Member Ian Gilfillan wanted clarity on the how often the five-year verification would work. Chairperson Caleb Phillips suggested that each product would get a five-year inclusion on the listing, and so every year the industry would validate the product on their listing if the five-year mark were up. Meaning all the current products listed would be listed for the next five years and then removed unless readded to the listing.

Member Tad Trout recommended getting together with committee leadership to hash out the fine details of the verification process and go from there. As it stands now, both he and Member Linda Hass-Kreman would likely do this on an annual basis when they submit their listings in May of each year. Chairperson Caleb Phillips agreed that a meeting would be wise and also apologized for not clarifying that the bringing up of this topic and the white paper were really to get conversations started and not fine tune anything just yet. OSFM wanted to get your thoughts, expectations, timeframes and acceptance of this before really drilling down on details.

Member Tad Trout wanted to mention that he has spoken to some of the other licensees, and we've all agreed to inform all the factories in China to not put 123 on any items that are not California state approved, especially starting with all the ariel items. Additionally, we may get American Fireworks Standard Laboratory (AFSL) to get involved with monitoring, being that they test about 85% of all the products that come into the United States. So, they will work on attempting to get 123 off of non-compliant items.

Chairperson Caleb Phillips was appreciative of the effort and the willingness to involve AFSL and industry to work to accomplish this task. He believes that it is a great starting point for helping people identify what is legal product and non-legal product in California.

Member Kevin Crews wanted to ask the question of whether all the effort OSFM and the industry are doing, is it going to do any good in the end to stop illegal fireworks from coming into California, unless serious fines and/or enforcement are imposed then it likely will not stop. Chief Andersen wanted to redirect and highlight some positive impact that has taken place due to the communication and partnership with local Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs). One being that AB1403 has increased fines for illegal fireworks and the efforts in partnership with training and reporting of seizures. Additionally, our Arson and Bomb Unit investigates issues with illegal fireworks amongst other things but all that to say, while the problem of illegal fireworks is big and ever present that is not the only thing this committee focuses on. There must be consideration of the industry in order to help them grow and remain vibrant, and well-regulated for consistency and safety of the stakeholders and public.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Regulation Proposal for Drone Shows – Caleb Phillips (Attachment 4)**

Chairperson Caleb Phillips shared the staff report on Regulation Proposal for Drone Shows as provided on attachment #4.

Chief Andersen shared several points. One was relating to the data from the three shows we've had in California, only one had injuries but it was not related to the drones. The other thing, drones are regulated by the FAA, and so there is question whether the OSFM has jurisdiction to promulgate regulations on this but beyond

that, we are looking to just gather information to see what is needed for moving forward.

Chairperson Caleb Phillips noted that Vijay Mepani has had conversations with the FAA on this and we are still getting an answer on whether we have authority to regulate it. When we talk with the FAA, their concern is the drone and not so much the firework. Whereas the OSFM would want to regulate the firework on that drone and not the drone itself. The care goes towards whether the firework on that drone is safe, properly sized for the drone, if the firework used is within an appropriate location and with a properly licensed person.

Member Amy Nygren noted that their challenge is the interaction of the drone, with or without a firework, with the display going on. They worry that these drones could easily get hit by other deployed fireworks and make for an unsafe environment. AHJ's typically don't have the experience with drones in general and are not able to make the call on authorizing such displays using drones and fireworks.

Member Julie Heckman mentioned that both NFPA and the Technical Committee on Special Effects are both having this conversation right now, and notes that the OSFM should be in contact with NFPA so that we can be on the same page in terms of regulations and consistency.

Member Kevin Crews believes there should be a sidebar discussion made up of two companies that deal with drone platforms and aerial fireworks to help gather proper data and understanding around the use of drones in aerial displays. He recommends Ian Gilfillan and Garden State Fireworks, both have a great deal of experience with drones and fireworks in a safe environment.

Member Gary Brown was surprised by the perspective of the staff report posted, and how there have been injuries associated with one of the three shows even though the injuries were unrelated to the use of drones within the firework show. He is unhappy to see that it was posted so that the public could take note even though a program has been developed in conjunction with the FAA that clearly addresses the use of fireworks on drones with an eye towards safety. It is not correct that the FAA is only interested in the aircraft, there is also interest in the payload, because once that firework is attached to the drone, it becomes part of the airframe. The implication of the staff report implies that this is an extremely dangerous situation and that we need to take immediate action because injuries are occurring, which is very misleading, because as Chief Andersen noted earlier the injuries were unrelated to the use of drones in the airshow. However, the report accuses three companies of injuries without stating their cause, the extent of those injuries, the reason the injuries were sustained, and how many were injured. Then it alleges that the injuries are the reason why we're assuming regulation and jurisdiction, even though jurisdiction has not been determined.

Member Gary Brown has some issues that need to be addressed. First, he would request that the staff report that has been posted either be redacted or revised to remove any reference to injuries in connection with drones and fireworks, it is just promulgating a negative perspective that needs to be fixed. Second, as it stands the

FAA has preemptive jurisdiction at this point until someone shows him that someone else does. If the OSFM is utilizing these alleged injuries to make their claim of jurisdiction, I would like that to stop as well. Lastly, if the OSFM is receiving calls from AHJs, who in the OSFM is qualified to answer those questions and what answers are being provided.

Chief Andersen addressed the issues that Member Gary Brown brought up. He agrees and will get a revised edition of the staff report and have it uploaded to the internet. Secondly, the advice that is being shared is that these drone shows are allowed and are not prohibited by code, and are ultimately, regulated by the FAA. The staff report was put out to help determine if gathering of information was needed and if some regulatory aspect was needed to help further guide AHJs.

Member Ian Gilfillan agrees with Member Gary Brown's comments and believes it is important to make sure we distinguish between truth and misinformation, and he is happy to hear that there will be a revision of the staff report to help clarify the misinformation previously published. Additionally, he believes there is further conversation needed before any regulations are created and thinks much of the information gathering aspect can be accomplished via the Pre and Post Fireworks Display reports that are sent to the OSFM. However, beyond that, there needs to be a goal for the purpose of this initial staff report, the report seems lacking a true pathway to a goal.

Chief Andersen agreed and noted that he still has a lot of questions that need to be addressed, particularly, is this even a true issue within the state, and he does not believe that has been answered yet.

Member Ian Gilfillan added some additional insight surrounding NFPA and confirmed that they are aware that fireworks on drones are becoming more common and as an organization, and someone who chairs The Public Display Committee with NFPA, they want to recognize the impact this will have on the pyrotechnic industry as well as getting the messaging accurate with regards to safety.

Member Kevin Crews, believes this staff report should be removed completely, and before anything else is done there should be a sidebar discussion within the industry to talk about it.

Member Amy Nygren noted that this topic does come up a lot for their department and believes that the information gathering aspect would be immensely helpful. Many of the AHJs don't have the understanding or knowledge about this within the industry and they call the OSFM to find out and they don't have much knowledge or guidance either. Many of us throw our hands up and become increasingly concerned about it because the State is on fire nearly every year and they just want to protect their communities but lack the ability to do so. Member Amy Nygren's hope is the OSFM in connection with this committee could come up with some regulations and/or guidelines to help AHJs do their job and not be worried when 4<sup>th</sup> of July comes every year.

Member Kevin Crews agreed with the concerns and recognized that the committee doesn't have much insight or information either and it will likely take someone from the private enterprise side to help figure this out.

Member Janice Van Mullem echoed Member Amy Nygren's comments, as part of a local AHJ herself, they need more awareness and insight into the usage of drones with fireworks. The idea of attaching an exploding firework on a fairly newer technology is a little scary and the hope for some guidelines and/or regulations to help mitigate this practice would be beneficial.

Member Gary Brown commented that he would have liked to see a task group formed or have it be approached as a project rather than just having this dropped on our laps a few weeks before this meeting. He is interested in hearing everyone's point of view on this but recognizes that it is a very narrow group of individuals with the expertise and understanding to move forward with it. He suggests that we form a task group of interested parties to gather information.

Chief Andersen recognizes the challenges and the difficulty in addressing this but sees the need and is aware that the OSFM is getting calls on what is recommended. Since nothing is currently out there by way of guidelines or knowledge, hearing from the industry on this is very helpful.

Member Ian Gilfillan agrees that it is definitely something we should for a task group about, because of the little knowledge that exists on how to approach fireworks on drones.

Member Gary Brown agrees with the other members and recalls echoes of a similar situation when the industry did not have much insight into proximate fireworks, stage effects or theatrical fireworks. He remembers the Station Fire that killed a hundred people because somebody didn't know what to do inside the show bar. In turn a task group was created that worked on this for many hours, involving NFPA, APA and the OSFM to develop some information that was useful. He believes having something created by knowledgeable people under the direction from the OSFM would benefit the AHJs to better handle this growing trend.

Member Julie Heckman believes it is good that we are having this conversation, and it is similar to the recent NFPA Technical Committee meeting and APA conference that had much discussion around this topic. Is the answer more guidelines and clarifying questions that help to make the scenario less worrisome or concerning rather than creating regulations. Can we vet some of this request for information through the National Association of State Fire Marshals to look for experts who could help construct some directional knowledge and information so that local AHJs are comfortable with this when they get asked about doing one of these shows, essentially forming a task group to help develop a reasonable solution to assist those involved.

Chief Andersen will work to put together a task group, but he would also like to get information from NFPA to see what they are doing, and he would like to get

something done before the next 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We'll bring this back to the next meeting come February to discuss further.

Member Julie Heckman wanted to clarify that NFPA is not going to have anything in this next round of revisions, but it is something they are aware of and wanting to look into further.

#### **4. ROUNDTABLE**

Member Amy Nygren asked for an update on the Charter and Roster for the committee, since her member status will be ending come the end of this year. Chief Andersen commented that all of the committee rosters within FEI are being updated. The OSFM has vetted them through legal to bring better clarity to the charters and to review the make-up of the rosters. The OSFM will be sending out appointment letters hopefully before the end of year or early next year. As it stands though, the committee will continue with its current members, but the OSFM is always open to participation from all interested parties and as the fire service we always look for your input. Chief Andersen informed Chairperson Caleb Phillips to send out reappointment letter notifications to existing members and have them send a reappointment request and send back to the Firework program's email, [FWX@fire.ca.gov](mailto:FWX@fire.ca.gov)

Member Julie Heckman wanted to note that the next meeting will be a conflict for many of the members in the industry as it is APA's Winter Educational Conference, from February 18<sup>th</sup>-February 21<sup>st</sup> in Las Vegas. Chief Andersen commented that we'll look at changing that date as it will take out several members.

Member Kevin Crews would suggest having the meeting right after the APA Conference because of the information that will be coming out of that conference and since the majority of folks will be on the West Coast for the conference, maybe aim for the 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> of February.

Chief Andersen will look at the 25<sup>th</sup> but noticed the committee to be on the lookout for an email with updated information pertaining to the next committee meeting.

Member Kevin Crews inquired about where we stand with the Metal Rack usage. Chairperson Caleb noted that there was not enough push to get it through this round of updated regulations, so it will be handled on a case-by-case basis from the local AHJs issuing the permit for the show. Member Kevin Crews wanted to make sure he was clear, AHJs will have the ability by regulation now to permit the use of metal racks within shows. Chairperson Caleb noted that AHJs will have that ability via "Alternate Means" through Title 24. He further noted that Title 19 is very prescriptive about what its requirements are, so the AHJ is taking on considerable discretion for them to approve that, because Title 19 is prescriptive about the type of makeup racks.

Member Ian Gilfillan asked if the OSFM will be attending APA. Chief Andersen noted that it is marked on our calendar, but we do have some challenges with out of state travel and restrictions to the state budget, but we'll try.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

James Eadie, who is a rocket hobbyist and Pyrotechnic Operator for Rockets 3<sup>rd</sup> Class applicant, wanted to know if the retest or recertification period discussed earlier would be applicable to model and high-power rocket motors. Chairperson Caleb Phillips noted that it could be a possibility but none of this has been fully discussed yet, so a determination has not been made. Chief Andersen noted that it will likely not have an impact because it isn't an issue with Rocket Motors but rather Safe and Sane fireworks. Additionally, it was noted by James Eadie that the majority of the time, even though he doesn't represent any organization or manufacturer, it is not uncommon for rocket motors that are decades old to be used without issue and function just fine.

James Eadie had one further question regarding the listing of rocket motors for high power use in California that bear the state seal, would the committee consider publishing such a list, in the same way they do with safe and sane. Chairperson Caleb informed James that he can get ahold of him and show James how to search our database and where to find all the approved high-power rocket motors and retailers of high-power rocket motors.

## **6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

- A.** February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9AM-12PM  
Natural Resources Agency  
715 P St. – 2nd Floor – Room 2-201  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Chief Andersen requested motion to adjourn meeting, motioned made by Member Kevin Crews, Member Ian Gilfillan seconded motion, all voted in favor of adjourning, meeting adjourned at 10:52am.

*This notice and copies of the written materials have been posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal website <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>. For information concerning the Committee meeting, please email Caleb Phillips at [Caleb.Phillips@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Caleb.Phillips@fire.ca.gov). Any written reports being provided to the Committee members in advance of the public meeting will also be available to the public upon request.*

*In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Request for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents in alternative formats, please contact Caleb Phillips at [Caleb.Phillips@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Caleb.Phillips@fire.ca.gov).*