
RISK MODELING ADVISORY WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes – Monday, August 15, 2022, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Posted September 6, 2022



August 15, 2022 – Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Jim McDougald, The State Fire Marshal, or the State Fire Marshal's designee
Carlos Camarena, The Director of Emergency Services, or the director's designee
Esteban Mendoza, The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance Commissioner's designee
Neil Matouka, The Director of State Planning and Research, or the director's designee
Paul Glushku, The Director of Housing and Community Development, or the director's designee
Max Moritz and Nancy Watkins (Appointed by Department), Two representatives from insurers and insurance research organizations that have appropriate expertise in wildfire risk modeling, such as exposure measurement, risk modeling, and actuarial expertise, to be appointed by the department.
Dave Winnacker and Robert Marshall (Appointed by Department), Two representatives, one a fire chief, or the fire chief's designee, and the other a fire prevention officer, to be appointed by the department in consultation with the California Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Districts Association of California

Anthony Powers, A representative from the California Professional Firefighters, to be appointed by the department

Yana Valachovic (Appointed by Department), A representative from the California Fire Science Consortium, to be appointed by the department

Chris Ochoa (Appointed by Department), A representative from the California Building Industry Association, to be appointed by the department

Dore Bietz, Terry Woodrow, and Joe Irvin, two representatives from a local government, with one from a rural city or county, to be appointed by the department

Melissa Semcer, A representative from the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, to be appointed by the department

Members Absent

None

CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal

Daniel Berlant, Deputy Director

Steve Hawks, Assistant Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division & Fire Engineering and Investigations

Frank Bigelow, Staff Chief

Jim McDougald, Staff Chief

Dave Sapsis, Supervisory Senior Environmental Scientist

Justin Johnson, Research Program Specialist I (Economics)

Scott Witt, Deputy Chief

Richard Brechbuehl, Assistant Chief

Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Celeste Jovanovic, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jim McDougald

A. Welcome

- The Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Jim McDougald
 - Daniel Berlant provided an introduction on Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division (CWPM) and what might a risk model include
 - Overview of what the goals of the PRC 4204.1 code legislation and legislators' goal is to determine what might need to be included in a risk model.
 - New legislation on preventing fires, and a new advisory committee that the work group reports up to the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee (WMAC).
 - Legislation does state the chair is the State Fire Marshall for the workgroup but has designated Jim McDougald in his place for this specific workgroup.

B. Roll Call/Quorum Established

- Quorum is nine people (50% plus one) – Quorum Established – Entire Committee Present

C. Agenda Review (Motion Required)

- Motion requested to adopt the agenda.

Motion:	N. Watkins moved to accept the meeting agenda; C. Ochoa seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted to unanimously approve the motion.

2. OLD BUSINESS

None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Jim McDougald

A. Introductions

- Introductions were given of each committee member and CAL FIRE staff present.

B. Charter Review/Adoption

- Committee will need to approve the adoption of the Charter.
- WMAC has reviewed and made some recommendations, in which are completed in red. Those are to be discussed, note that anything in black is taken directly from PRC Code 4204.1 and what the risk modeling group is charged to do.
 - 1) Purpose
 - Added by WMAC: *CAL FIRE shall post the recommendations on how to understand the model risk for a community and specific parcel on the department's internet website.* Approved by workgroup.
 - 2) Goals and Objectives
 - Identify the items of risk that we can tie to specific mitigations to risk.
 - Objective:
 - Provide a discussion on how parcels can affect the risk of other parcels in close proximity to each other and what impacts that has on wildfire risk modeling
 - As we identify those ideas of risk, we would identify the mitigation factors that go along with risk.

- Are we trying to build a model or are we trying to write a report about things that one thinks should be in a risk model? – report
- Mitigations are very explicit in the language, part of the work groups tasks early on is to define the scope of impacted values.
- How do we work that in addition to the timelines that is being asked to commit to? 7/1/23 – paper completed, by April/May 23 draft for review to WMAC.
- *To use underlying data used to create such models should be representative and cross-sectional of all California communities to reduce any inadvertent data biases* (proposed added objective)
 - *Review and provide a list of research, academia and industry wildfire risk models and their modeling components.*
 1. Suggested change: *Review and provide a list of relevant wildfire risk research models from science, academia and industry, and other sources and their purpose and relevant attributes.*

3) Committee Membership

- Chief Steve Hawks stated that the State Fire Marshal would like to add two additional members to the membership list.
 - Energy Safety
 - 2nd Representative from a rural City or County
- Bullet Point on data for the objectives section to come from the workgroup, requested to be emailed to Jim and Celeste.
- Dave Winnacker – will be the Vice Chairperson

4) Meetings

- Committee shall meet on the third Monday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.
- Committee roll call – simple vote with the majority. No need to call everyone’s name.
- Public comment limited to 3-5 minutes
- To add any additional items the agenda a minimum 3 weeks before the scheduled meeting.
- Item requested by the public will be placed on the following months meeting.
- Clean up language related to “simple majority”

5) Committee Protocol

- Confidentiality question – getting assistance with task outside the workgroup. It will not be an issue, as this a public meeting.

6) Process

- None

7) Quorum

- None

8) Responsibility of the Chair

- None

C. Nominate Risk Modeling Groups for Presentations

- How would we like to handle group presentations? – 20-minute presentations
 - Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) or National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

- Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) with UL
 - Wildfire Modeling Institute Group at the Intermountain Fire Sciences Lab
 - Utility Wildfire Risk Modeling
 - How the insurance industry does the model for high fire severity zones
 - CALFIRE presentation on FHSZ for the 9/19/22 workgroup meeting
 - Relative Hazard – interactive mitigation credit tables
 - Property damage seems to be part of the inclusive risk model
 - **ACTION ITEM:** bring back a list of Risk Modeling Groups
- D. Goals and Expectations of Workgroup
- 1) Definitions
- **ACTION ITEM:** Questions to answer
 - What are your expectations of this workgroup, so we can focus on which direction we can go?
 - What is community risk verse-based risk?
 - How do we define mitigation? Short-term and long-term mitigation.
 - The committee will work on and will be well served early on to work on definitions and scoping, from the start and have definitions and scoping clearly defined.

4. ROUNDTABLE

Jim McDougald

- Continue to think about Community Risk verse Individual home / parcel risk, the model will need to be adaptable as the mitigation factors come about for communities, there will be correlation between dollars and cents and correlation of a safe community.
- Designate some meetings for in person only meetings.
- Are we talking about wide area models or are we talking about individual structure models, or are we talking about both?
- Who are the clients? Is it individual homeowners? Is it small communities that are looking for basically Community level risk production? Is it to push the ball along just in terms of an integrated picture of hazard?
- In an area with an urban density, a single parcel really might not affect much, if area is around not mitigated, we pivot our look either to a community or to a neighborhood assessment of risk. However, to also think in flexibility, because one home could make a difference in certain high-density areas.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2022

- A. Third Monday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
- B. Next meeting is September 19, 2022

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT (Motion Required)

Jim McDougald

<p>Motion: N. Watkins moved to accept adjournment of the meeting; C. Ochoa seconded the motion.</p> <p>Action: All members voted to unanimously approve the motion.</p>
