
AB 835 SINGLE EXIT STAIR TASK GROUP MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April, 1, 2025



Crystal Sujeski, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair (Present)
Robert Marshall, UL, Co-Chair (Present)

Task Group Members

Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
Vickie Sakamoto, ASFM, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
Stoyan Bumbalov, Executive Director, Building Standards Commission (Present)
Kyle Krause, Deputy Director, Housing Community Development (Present)
Mitchel Baker (Alternate), Assistant Deputy Director, Housing Community Development
Stephan Smith, Executive Director, Center for Building in North America (Present)
James Dobson, Fire Marshal, California Fire Chiefs (FM Section) (Present)
James Gillespie Fire Marshal (Alternate), California Fire Chiefs (FM Section)
Joe Cavin, Fire Marshal, California Fire Prevention Officers (Present)
Ian Hardage, Fire Marshal (Alternate), California Fire Prevention Officers
Brian Rice, President, California Professional Firefighters
Melissa McDonald, Executive Assistant (Alternate), California Professional Firefighters
Ed Mendoza, MAP Research Associate, California YIMBY (Present)
Brian Hanlon, CEO (Alternate), California YIMBY
Robert Raymer, Consultant, California Building Industry Association (Present)
Christopher Ochoa, Senior Council (Alternate), California Building Industry Association
Ali Fattah, Building Official, California Building Officials
Matt Wheeler Executive Director (Alternate), California Building Officials
Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, Rural Counties Representatives of California
Patrick Blacklock (Alternate), Rural Counties Representatives of California
Jack Smalley, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties
Mark Neuburger, Legislative (Alternate), California State Association of Counties
Travis Tyler, Director, California State University (CSU) (Present)
Stephen Guarino, Director, University of California (UC)

1. CALL TO ORDER 8:01 AM

- A. Welcome/Introductions
- B. Roll Call/Quorum Established
- C. Agenda Review (Motions Required)

Crystal Sujeski
Crystal Sujeski
Robert Marshall

Motion: Approved Raymer Action: Approved Dobson

- D. Minutes Review (Motion Required)

Robert Marshall

Motion:	Approved as amended [Correction to Stoyan's last name] Smith
Action:	Approved as amended Raymer/Dobson

2. OLD BUSINESS

Crystal Sujeski/Robert Marshall

A. Smoke Control Report Presentation from Stephen Smith –

[2025-03-13-Report--GHL-8761.01-.pdf](#)

Summary highlights-

Chapter 7 Smoke Control

Chapter 4 Egress Analysis

3. NEW BUSINESS

Crystal Sujeski/Robert Marshall

A. Draft Report Format

i. Template based on the Risk Modeling Advisory Report

1. [RISK MODELING ADVISORY WORKGROUP REPORT](#)

ii. Timeline

1. Draft August 2025

2. 2nd Draft September 2025

3. 3rd Draft October 2025

4. Final November 2025 to present to the State Fire Marshal

iii. How are we going to write the report? [single voice]

iv. Technical Writers

v. Expectation of Committee Members to Read the Entire Report

vi. The target audience is the Legislature

vii. Executive Summary (laymen's terms)

viii. Regulations vs. Legislative changes

ix. Use the Appendix for technical reports, etc.

x. Position Statements in the Appendix (might not be in the report)

B. Subgroups

i. Cost Impact [Lead Stephen Smith] stephen@centerforbuilding.org

ii. Fire Protection (Active/Passive) [Lead Jeff Maddox]

jmaddox@thefireconsultants.com

1. Smoke Control

2. Fire Alarm

3. Sprinklers/Sprinkler density

a. Seismic/Flood/Wildfire (other natural disasters)

b. Water supply/resources

c. Reliability

d. In California, sprinklers are mandatory

i. What about repurposing of non-sprinklered buildings?

ii. ADUs are currently not required by law

4. Alternatives
 - a. Other utilities
 5. Types of Construction
 - a. Will the type dictate allowability?
 - b. Will certain types only be allowed with provisions?
 - c. Will there be size limitations?
- iii. Code Comparison **[Lead Ali Fattah]** AFattah@sandiego.gov
1. NFPA (101)
 2. ICC (IBC/IFC/IRC/IEBC)
 3. Uniform
 4. Other
 5. Code Adoption Process
 6. What are other states/larger/small cities doing?
 - a. Seattle, WA
 - b. San Francisco, CA
 - c. New York
 - d. Honolulu, Hawaii
 - e. Tennessee -Various jurisdictions
 - f. Other (Vermont, Georgia, Puerto Rico, etc.)
- iv. History / Baseline (US) **[Lead Stephen Smith]** stephen@centerforbuilding.org
1. Statics collection
 2. Barriers to implementation
 3. “Why are two exits the current practice?”
- v. World/Global Experience (other countries)
1. Statics collection
- vi. Egress Analysis **[Lead Tim Spears]** tim.spears@sjcfire.org
1. Secondary egress means
 2. Area of refuge
 3. Occupant Behavior
 4. Travel Distance
 5. Time
- vii. FD Capabilities **[Lead James Dobson]** james.dobson@sanjoseca.gov
1. Firefighter access and firefighting tactics
 2. Fire Equipment needs (aerial apparatus)
 3. On-going maintenance
 4. Rescue windows

- C. NFPA Report- Greg Rogers – Posted in Single-Exit Stair Task Group section for April 1 Meeting on Active Workgroups webpage. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/code-development-and-analysis/workgroups>

Greg Rogers, MS, FM, CFO MiFire
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- D. ICC- Christine Reed – Posted in Single-Exit Stair Task Group section for April 1 Meeting on Active Workgroups webpage. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/code-development-and-analysis/workgroups>

Christine Reed
Fire & Disaster Mitigation Program Manager
International Code Council
O: 562-699-0541
Visit www.iccsafe.org

4. ROUNDTABLE

Crystal Sujeski/Robert Marshall

- A. Jeff Maddox
- B. Ali Fattah
 - i. Clarification on the subgroups
 - ii. Clarification on the timeline

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Crystal Sujeski/Robert Marshall

- A. None

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Crystal Sujeski

- A. The first Tuesday of each month starts at 8 AM and ends at 10 AM (unless voted on by the members for a better meeting time).
 - i. Next Meeting – Poll sent out to members (TBD), 8-10 AM PST

7. MEETING ADJOURNED (Motion Required) 10 AM

Crystal Sujeski

Motion:	Raymer/Maddox
Action:	Approved

If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:
<https://youtu.be/45jvOTYaS2w>