
FIRE ALARM WORK GROUP

Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2026

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Contacts:

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I. CALL TO ORDER – 8:05 AM PDT

- A. Welcome/Introductions – Jena Garcia, Chrishana Fields, and Joseph Cervantes
 - 1. Deputy State Fire Marshal III Supervisor Jena Garcia called the meeting to order, noting that the work group would be chaired by Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist Chrishana Fields and co-chaired by Joseph Cervantes of the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA). Jena Garcia stated that the goal of the meeting was to resume work from the January session, address proposals that did not advance during the intervening cycle, and discuss any additional fire alarm-related matters. Participants were also advised that the meeting was being recorded.
- B. [Agenda](#) / Minutes Review
 - 1. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Joseph Cervantes, seconded by Jay Levy, and the motion carried.
 - 2. Motion to approve the [January 20, 2026 minutes](#) was made by Jena Garcia, seconded by Christian Mookin (National Federal Safe), and the motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2025 Intervening Code Adoption Cycle – Commission Hearing [August 25-27, 2026](#)
 - 1. Chrishana Fields reviewed the outcomes of the 2025 intervening cycle. Several items were withdrawn due to [AB 130](#), which restricted code changes outside the triennial scope until 2031. Items withdrawn included all carbon monoxide detection proposals and the delayed egress smoke/heat detector cleanup (CBC/CFC 1010.2.13 and its correlating section). Items that successfully passed through the Commission included occupancy-specific zoning language for H, I-3, and L occupancies; pathway survivability items from NFPA 72; and the deletion of the auxiliary service provider (ASP) language. These changes will appear in the July supplements. Joseph Cervantes also noted that NFPA 855 also successfully passed and may be a substantial area of interest for the group.
- B. Drafted charter – reworking
 - 1. The work group charter, which defines the group's intent and operating procedures, remains in draft form. It was suggested that charter finalization be handled by a dedicated subgroup rather than the full work group.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. [2027 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle](#)

1. SFM Code Development proposal deadline: February 1, 2027
2. Chrishana Fields presented the internal deadlines for the 2027 triennial. Proposals affecting the Mechanical, Plumbing, and Electrical codes must be finalized internally by October 15, 2026 and submitted for OSFM internal process by November 1, 2026 due to earlier Building Standards Commission deadlines of February 1, 2027. Building, Fire, and Other code proposals must be finalized by February 1, 2027, for a BSC deadline of May 3, 2027.
 - i. Internal deadline of February 1, 2027 confirmed as the target for all building and fire code proposals from this work group.
3. [CBSC Timeline](#)
 - i. The compressed timeline for mechanical code proposals was flagged as a significant constraint, particularly in light of discussions around air-moving systems. Joseph Cervantes noted the parallel work occurring at the ICC's FCAC Work Group No. 2 on construction fire protection.

B. 2027 CAFAA Annual AHJ Roundtable

1. Discussions specific to air-moving systems, water flow alarm devices, dedicated function fire alarm systems, and heat detectors in lieu of smoke detectors
2. Chrishana Fields reported on her participation at the 2027 CAFAA AHJ Roundtable, identifying recurring areas of confusion and code-related questions that emerged. These include: air-moving systems (compartment definitions, supply air, plenums, and detector placement/shutdown requirements); water flow alarm devices (audible/visual appliance quantities, system definition, device location, and monitoring requirements); dedicated function fire alarm systems (supervision requirements and upgrade triggers); and heat detectors in lieu of smoke detectors (broader application beyond delayed egress). Joseph Cervantes added that disable/enable button documentation, automatic restore language, and annunciation on panels were also items of concern raised in the industry.
 - i. Discussion confirmed that these topics warrant continued study. Nanci Timmins (HCAI) noted that her agency's proposals primarily address a CMC 609 numbering cleanup and will be presented jointly with the Building Standards Unit. Joseph Cervantes emphasized that ambiguity around compartmentation definitions has persisted across multiple CAFAA roundtables and that clear code direction is needed. It was agreed that the air-moving systems topic would be addressed by a dedicated subgroup, with Joseph Cervantes volunteering to chair it.

C. Proposed NFPA 72, 2028 edition changes

1. Joseph Cervantes briefed the group on significant pending changes to NFPA 72 for the 2028 edition. Key items included:
 - i. New Chapter 28 on Construction Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems for temporary installations on construction sites. The chapter passed committee balloting 17-0 and will likely require a pointer in CFC Chapter 33. Publication is anticipated in October 2027, raising questions about whether the state could adopt it in time for the 2027 triennial. Jena Garcia noted this had been done before but that AB 130 implications would need

- to be evaluated. Building Standards Commission staff were absent from this meeting and will be followed up with for clarification.
- ii. Battery Testing Language: A proposed change in NFPA 72 would negate a prior code interpretation (CI 25-002) that prohibited testing batteries in 24-hour quiescent mode. Industry members expressed concerns that current practices may be causing harm to panels and batteries.
- iii. UL 864 Edition: A TIA may have addressed a reversion to the 10th edition; Joseph Cervantes committed to providing a written summary of all 2nd draft NFPA 72 changes for the group's records.

D. Fire Alarm Work Group Topics to Discuss for the 2027 Triennial Cycle

Topics Needing Further Review	Purpose	Person Assigned
CBC/CFC 907.5.2.4	Delete section and eliminate requirement	David Secoda
CBC/CFC 907.2.3.6.1	Remove certain requirements from section.	David Secoda
CBC/CFC 907.2 & 907.2.2.3	Rewrite section for clarity	Sagiv Weiss-Ishai/Akilan Ananth
CBC/CFC 1010.2.13	Remove "or heat" language from section	Sagiv Weiss-Ishai
CBC/CFC Section 915	Rewrite section for clarity	R Roberts

1. The group reviewed the outstanding proposals from the prior cycle and discussed new topics requiring subgroup study. The following subgroups were established:
 - i. Educational Occupancies Subgroup — Will address CBC/CFC 907.5.2.4 (exterior audible alarm at playground areas), CBC/CFC 907.2.3.6.1 (smoke detector placement in environmental air plenums and use of heat detectors), and CBC/CFC 907.2/907.2.2.3 (fire alarm requirements for educational occupancies above grade 12). David Secoda was identified as the likely lead, with Mitchell Daudert volunteering to assist. There was substantive discussion about whether the exterior playground alarm requirement should be eliminated, with Lisa Beaver noting a recent site visit where an exterior device served a legitimate evacuation function, and Joseph Cervantes raising technical concerns about temporal pattern distortion and synchronization issues with exterior strobes.
 - ii. ESS Heat Detector Subgroup — Will study the appropriate heat detector trigger temperature for energy storage systems in attached garages at R-3 occupancies. Discussion revealed that ambient garage temperatures in parts of California (Inland Empire, Los Angeles) regularly exceed 140°F, creating conflicts with NFPA 72's intermediate temperature rating requirements and raising false alarm or non-activation risks. Mark Rodriguez raised the issue, noting that listed devices on the market trigger at 135°F while the code points to 194°F for unconditioned spaces. Joshua Costello and Akilan Ananth noted a recent UL 539 8th edition update allowing ambient temperature to be rated 20°F below trigger temperature, and Mitchell Daudert raised water flow monitoring as a

- potential workaround. The group concluded testing and further study are needed. Joshua Costello, Akilan Ananth, and Mitchell Daudert volunteered to participate.
- iii. Air-Moving Systems Subgroup — Will examine compartment definitions, zone criteria, and detector placement/shutdown requirements with coordination needed on the mechanical code side. Joseph Cervantes volunteered to chair this subgroup. Given the November 1 internal deadline for mechanical proposals, this subgroup's schedule was acknowledged as particularly aggressive.
 - iv. Carbon Monoxide Detection Subgroup — Will revisit all CO proposals withdrawn due to AB 130. Robert Roberts was identified as the likely lead; Fields committed to follow up with him directly.
 - v. Heat vs. Smoke Detector Subgroup — Will address the broader question of whether heat detectors may substitute for smoke detectors in various applications (e.g., air-moving system shutdown, fire damper activation, smoke door closure), not limited to delayed egress. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai was identified as the likely lead.
 - vi. It was clarified that each subgroup would schedule separately, develop code change proposals, and present recommendations to the full work group for a vote prior to submission to the OSFM.

IV. ROUNDTABLE/PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. No additional public comments were raised

V. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- A. Meetings are held every two weeks on Tuesday from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM PDT
- B. Next meeting: October 6, 2026
- C. Upcoming meetings (TBD)
 - 1. October 20, 2026
 - 2. November 3, 2026
 - 3. November 17, 2026
 - 4. December 1, 2026
 - 5. December 15, 2026
 - 6. January 5, 2027
 - 7. January 19, 2027

VI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 9:44 AM PDT

- A. Chrishana Fields thanked all attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

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If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:
<https://youtu.be/ybC6Ckq1pSw>

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