
FIRE ALARM WORK GROUP

Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2026

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Contacts:

Chair – Chrishana Fields, OSFM-CDA DSFM III Spec, (916) 6984391, chrishana.fields@fire.ca.gov
Co-Chair - Joseph Cervantes, CAFAA Board S. CA VP, (562) 440-6505, jc@cervantesconsulting.us
Support – Becca Mansergh, OSFM-CDA-Analyst, becca.mansergh@fire.ca.gov

I. CALL TO ORDER – 8:34 AM PDT

- A. Welcome/Introductions – Jena Garcia (for Chrishana Fields and Joseph Cervantes)
1. Deputy State Fire Marshal III Supervisor Jena Garcia (OSFM – CDA) called the meeting to order and advised that she would facilitate the meeting in the absence the Chair and Co-Chair, who were both unavailable.
 2. Becca Mansergh read a statement that provided notice that the meeting would be recorded, with a link to the recording to be included in the meeting minutes. She reviewed meeting protocols, including keeping microphones muted unless called upon, using the raise hand feature to request the floor, refraining from using AI note-taking tools, and maintaining respectful and professional dialogue throughout the session.
- B. [Agenda](#) / Minutes Review
1. Jena Garcia stated that the agenda and previous minutes were posted on the [CDA Work Groups](#) page and the minutes were displayed for review.
 2. Christopher Creamer inquired as to whether only committee members could move to approve the minutes and Jena Garcia clarified that the meetings were an open forum and anyone who attended the previous meeting may make a motion.
 3. Motion to approve the [October 6, 2026 minutes](#) was made by Christopher Creamer and seconded by Mitchell Daudert. With no opposition, the motion carried by consensus.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Drafted Charter
1. Jena Garcia reported that the prior minutes showed a draft charter had been presented, with seven goals, but the work group had not reached consensus to forward it to OSFM for approval. After staff located the most recent version (the October 2026 revision with tracked changes) Jena Garcia reviewed it section by section so the work group could move it forward for agency approval.
 - i. Purpose: Jena Garcia read the purpose paragraph aloud. It states that the work group advises the State Fire Marshal and provides a forum for discussing improvements to building codes and standards related to fire alarm systems. It also states that the group will review existing California amendments for applicability, redundancy, and obsolescence, and will

- recommend new amendments for emerging technologies and identified fire alarm issues.
- a. Frank Molnar asked which "existing amendments" the language referred to. Jena Garcia explained that these are the existing California amendments to the building standards applicable to fire alarm systems. Because model codes and standards may have absorbed them over the past decade or so, the group will confirm whether each is still needed. New amendments would be needed where new laws or model code conflicts with state statute.
 - b. Mark Rodriguez asked that the charter say explicitly that the review concerns the California building standards. Jena Garcia confirmed that the work group addresses only Title 24 and not Title 19. She explained that work from the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee, which handles certification and licensing, may be referred to in this group when it involves building standards.
 - c. Motion to approve the Purpose section was made by Frank Molnar and seconded by Christopher Creamer. Jena Garcia acknowledged both and moved on, and no opposition was noted.
- ii. Goals: Jena Garcia read the goal of identifying and addressing confusion, inconsistency, or conflict within Title 24 (California Fire Code, Building Code, and Electrical Code) as it relates to fire alarm. Following a conversation that morning with the co-chair, she added the California Mechanical Code. She noted that a related proposal was expected to be circulated.
- a. Motion to approve the Goals as displayed, with the addition of the mechanical code, was made by Christopher Creamer and seconded by Jay Levy. Jena Garcia acknowledged the motion and second.
2. Objectives: Jena Garcia read the objectives, which include the following:
- a. reviewing the history and original intent of California amendments to Fire Code Section 907;
 - b. developing an assessment format and tracking methods;
 - c. analyzing Section 907 for obsolete, redundant, or conflicting amendments;
 - d. comparing California amendments to current ICC model codes and NFPA 72;
 - e. engaging stakeholders and drafting revisions that improve code clarity.
- i. Greg Rogers observed that the comparison to ICC model codes and NFPA 72 should also cover the mechanical code, since California's mechanical code is not the ICC mechanical code. Jena Garcia also proposed adding NFPA 70, the electrical code, and said she would confirm that with Greg Rogers, who agreed. Jena Garcia said the acronyms would be cleaned up for accessibility before publication.
3. A motion to approve was made by Greg Rogers and seconded by Christopher Creamer. Jay Levy raised a point of order that a vote should follow a motion and second. Jena Garcia confirmed that all 34 attendees are voting members and that the group would use a show of hands. Greg Rogers asked whether the vote

covered only the blue-underlined changes, and Jena Garcia clarified that it covered the entire Objectives section. The motion was restated.

- i. Motion to accept the Objectives section, as modified, was made by Christopher Creamer and seconded by Greg Rogers. By show of hands, the motion carried by majority.
 - ii. Work Group Leadership: Jena Garcia read the section. The work group is open to interested parties, along with the State Fire Marshal or designee, another state representative (the co-chair, Joseph Cervantes, a representative from California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA), and any additional stakeholders the State Fire Marshal appoints. The chair is a member of Code Development and Analysis. Jena Garcia noted that leadership is at the office's discretion but that she wanted to confirm work group support.
 - a. Motion to approve the Work Group Leadership section was made by Christopher Creamer and seconded by Greg Rogers. Jena Garcia acknowledged the motion and second.
 - iii. Meetings: Jena Garcia read the section, which provides for the following:
 - a. The chair and co-chair set meeting times and frequency (currently every two weeks) and meetings are virtual.
4. Meetings will not be cancelled without cause, and may be rescheduled if most interested parties cannot attend.
 - a. Subgroups may be formed for specific technical topics and will present recommendations to the main work group.
 - b. Published agendas and minutes are required.
 - c. A simple majority of the work group passes a motion.
 - d. Participants may submit agenda items in advance, and agenda items take precedence over non-agenda items.
 - e. The group will follow the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to the extent possible, though not required by law.
 - i. Motion to approve the Meetings section was made by Jay Levy and seconded by Christopher Creamer. Jena Garcia acknowledged the motion and second.
 - ii. Work Group Protocol, Process, and Responsibility of the Chair: Jena Garcia revised the language to state that chairpersons have the authority to set time limits on agenda items. The remaining protocol items were taken together.
 - a. Motion to approve the Work Group Protocol, Process, and Responsibility of the Chair sections was made by Mark Rodriguez and seconded by Greg Rogers. By show of hands, the motion carried by majority.
5. Overall Charter
 - i. Motion to accept the drafted charter with the changes made at the meeting was made by Jay Levy and seconded by Christopher Creamer. By show of hands, the motion carried by majority.
6. Jena Garcia stated that CDA would process the charter through OSFM's internal approval for posting. Once approved, it would appear on the web page and a link would be added to agendas.

- B. Review of Chapter 9 of the 2027 International Building Code and International Fire Code
1. Jena Garcia found no notes on the item and asked for input. Becca Mansergh stated that the Chair, Chrishana Fields, had asked for the item to be added to the agenda. Jena Garcia then indicated that the item would be tabled until the next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Subgroups

1. Educational Occupancies - [David Secoda](#)
 - i. David Secoda was not present. A participant in the subgroup, Akilan Ananth, reported that the subgroup is working on changes proposed during the intervening code cycle and that the proposal is under review by the Division of the State Architect (DSA). Gregory Cobabe confirmed that DSA is reviewing the proposed language. He said he and others, including David Secoda and Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, were working through DSA's initial concerns and expected to finalize a few fine-tuning items within the next month. He said the proposal has merit and is on a good path.
2. ESS Heat Detector - [Akilan Ananth](#), [Joshua Costello](#), and [Mitchell Daudert](#)
 - i. Mitchell Daudert reported that the subgroup had spoken with OSFM staff about updating an information bulletin. The 8th edition of UL testing will be the first to test these devices at ambient temperatures above 100 degrees, with a deadline he believed to be February 2028. Because no state listing would exist for devices rated above 100 degrees until after that date, the subgroup expects to address the issue through local concessions and information bulletins.
 - ii. Akilan Ananth added that two products are being examined by OSFM's Building Materials Listing (BML) group for listings above 100 degrees. He also noted that the 8th edition adds a section on heat detection in unconditioned areas, and that no such products are currently on the market. In response to Jena Garcia, Mitchell Daudert identified Michael Huang as the OSFM contact the subgroup is working with.
3. Air-Moving Systems Subgroup - [Joseph Cervantes](#)
 - i. Joseph Cervantes was not present and had not yet sent his email containing updates, so no update was given.
4. Carbon Monoxide Detection – Pending
 - i. The subgroup was seeking a volunteer lead. Jena Garcia reported that the last update indicated the prior lead had invited Joseph Cervantes to an ICC work group on the topic and he offered to reach out to the previous lead. No further update was available.
5. Heat vs. Smoke Detector - [Sagiv Weiss-Ishai](#)
 - i. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai was not present, so no report was given. Jena Garcia noted that the proposals from the intervening cycle still need consensus from the work group and confirmation of DSA support. Jay Levy reported

on discussions in the device committee. The committee recommended trying newer multi-criteria detectors before moving directly from smoke to heat detection and addressing any underlying environmental problem rather than relying on the fire alarm system to solve it.

IV. ROUNDTABLE/PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Jay Levy asked that any documents discussed be included with the minutes for transparency. Jena Garcia explained that draft proposals usually cannot be posted because they do not meet accessibility requirements. CDA is creating a template so they can be posted, and the proposals have previously been attached to the minutes as PDFs. She asked subgroup leads to send proposals to CDA staff before sharing them with the main group so staff can make them accessible. Jay Levy responded that more transparency is better.
- B. Jena Garcia asked that subgroups bring proposals to the next meeting so the group can begin refining them.
- C. Christopher Creamer reported that several attendees serve on the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee (FAAC), which meets the following Thursday at 9:00 AM. He said that committee had examined existing amendments that might be removable because of model code changes. Work from the FAAC on existing amendments may therefore come to this group. Jena Garcia thanked him and said she hoped the Chair could attend the FAAC meeting.
- D. Frank Molnar asked how to be added to the distribution list. Jena Garcia explained that calendar invitations go only to subgroup leads and chairs. Announcements with linked agendas are sent by email to anyone subscribed for Title 24 updates or work groups. She advised subscribing through the [work group web page](#) or the [quick link](#) at the bottom of OSFM web pages, and recommended also subscribing to the Title 19 and OSFM committees and work groups lists. Staff can also be reached at the Code Development and Analysis [Work Group email](#) address.

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: November 3, 2026
- C. Upcoming meetings
 - 1. November 19, 2026
Tentative:
 - 2. December 1, 2026
 - 3. December 15, 2026
 - 4. January 5, 2027
 - 5. January 19, 2027

VI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 9:24 AM PDT

- A. Motion to adjourn was made by Mitchell Daudert and seconded by Greg Rogers. By show of hands, the motion carried by consensus.
- B. Jena Garcia thanked attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

*Please [subscribe](#) to the “OSFM Committee and Workgroup Updates” mailing list to receive updates

If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:

<https://youtu.be/oLnCBOyRJ2g>

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