FIRE ALARM WORK GROUP
Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2026
Posted – November 23, 2026

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 – 8:30 AM PST

A. Welcome/Introductions – Chrishana Fields

1. Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist Chrishana Fields called the meeting to order and introduced herself and invited Joseph Cervanntes to do the same.
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. Chrishana Fields stated that the agenda and previous minutes were posted on the CDA Work Groups page
2. The agenda was displayed and received no request for changes.
    i. Motion to approve was made by Joseph Cervantes and seconded by David Secoda. With no opposition, the motion carried.
3. The November 3, 2026 minutes were noted as not yet posted online but were displayed by Chrishana Fields and received no request for changes.
    i. Motion to approve was made by Christopher Creamer and seconded by David Secoda. With no opposition, the motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Subgroups

1. Educational Occupancies - David Secoda
    i. David Secoda reported that, in the course of work on the smoke versus heat detection proposal, Chrishana Fields had clarified that the language "greater than 50 occupants or more than one classroom" is established in statute (SB 575). An earlier proposed edit to strike it therefore cannot be made in regulation. A smaller subgroup, including Greg Cobabe, acknowledged this. The Division of the State Architect (DSA) had previously opposed striking the language. The subgroup has several additional meetings scheduled after the Thanksgiving holiday.

2. Air-Moving Systems Subgroup - Joseph Cervantes
    i. Joseph Cervantes reported that HCAI had made editorial amendments aligning the proposal with the mechanical code and with HCAI's own regulations. He then summarized the proposed amendments to Section 609.1, which he said is enforced inconsistently from one jurisdiction to another:
        a. It would define "enclosed space," which triggers the 2,000 CFM threshold but is currently undefined.
        b. It would combine airflow from multiple units serving one space.
        c. It would correct Exception 1 so that it matches the supply-air rule it modifies. The existing text refers to return air.
        d. It would clarify the smoke-control exemption so that detectors for shut down remain, automatic shut down does not override the smoke control sequence under CBC 909, and firefighter controls would take priority.
        e. It would require supervisory signals and unit identification for duct detectors operating at minimum airflow (VAV turndown).
        f. It would correct the high-rise reference to CFC 907.2.13.1.2.
        g. It would add story-level return air detection for multi-story buildings.
        h. It would allow hardwired stop inputs on VFDs and package units, and exclude building automation systems alone as a shutdown method.
    ii. Chrishana Fields noted that HCAI had relocated some sections to group the air-shutdown requirements together.
    iii. Questions and discussion. Christopher Creamer asked which code cycle the changes would enter, and Chrishana Fields answered the 2027 cycle. David Secoda asked whether the displayed version was current. Chrishana Fields confirmed that it was the combined version with HCAI, with two new return-air exceptions shown in blue, and agreed to distribute the combined file. HCAI had been awaiting work group feedback before proceeding.
    iv. David Secoda also asked whether the proposal had been reviewed by the air-moving task group or by the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA). Joseph Cervantes replied that it was his personal proposal. The language was due November 1, shortly after he became co-chair, so there was no time to convene a CAFAA code committee review. He said the language could be retracted if the group could not reach agreement.
    v. Nancy Timmons (HCAI) supported merging the proposals. She said the language cleans up overlapping legacy references (IMC, CMC, NFPA) and does not represent new enforcement or significant cost. It would also be presented to HCAI's Hospital Building Safety Board (HBSB) committees. In response to David Secoda, she believed HCAI previously addressed the air shutdown clarification through an HCAI FAQ rather than a Code Application Notice (CAN) or Policy Intent Notice (PIN), and she would update or rescind it as appropriate. She explained that Exception 1 removed the area-detection option for Group I-2 on the supply side because NFPA 90A, as required for CMS participants, require supply side detection at the unit. Area detection remains available for return air systems.

vi. Akilan Ananth asked about ductless units. Joseph Cervantes and Nanci Timmons confirmed the proposal did not address ductless equipment. Nanci Timmons suggested reviewing CBC Section 717.3.3.2. Joseph Cervantes said a new section could be drafted for ductless equipment. Chrishana Fields cautioned that a new requirement could add costs that the State Fire Marshal's economist had not reviewed, so it might be too late for this cycle. James Carver observed that Section 609 concerns ducted systems and that major changes at this stage were unwise.
vii. David Secoda said his initial reaction was favorable but he wished to review the language again. The group concluded it was not ready to vote.
viii. Outcome: The proposal will return at the December 1 meeting for a vote. Joseph Cervantes requested a firm vote date. Chrishana Fields stated that the next meeting is the last opportunity, after which the proposal must be pulled or kept with the economist and moved through the executive team.

3. Carbon Monoxide Detection – Pending
    i. Chrishana Fields reported that all carbon monoxide items proposed for Section 915 in the last code cycle are included in the 2027 mechanical code, so no further subgroup work was necessarily required unless members wished to pursue additional items. David Secoda recalled that Richard Roberts had verbally proposed bringing model-code CO provisions into the intervening cycle, but technical reasons prevented it, and he knew of no current CO proposal for the triennial cycle.
    ii. Joseph Cervantes introduced Charon McNabb, a member of the FCAC Working Group 2 on fire protection systems for the 2030 cycle. Charon McNabb, an electrical engineer, described the National Carbon Monoxide Awareness Association, which she founded in 2015 after a personal experience with undetected CO leaks. She described its coalition of more than 200 volunteer experts, its data partnership with Google, and its two FEMA-funded firefighter training programs. Joseph Cervantes proposed that she and Richard Roberts lead a subgroup. He said Richard Roberts has the technical background to write language and Charon McNabb has industry connections. He added that the three of them were already discussing CO detection at construction sites.
    iii. Chrishana Fields listed Charon McNabb as co-chair and Richard Roberts as chair of the carbon monoxide subgroup. Interested members were asked to post their emails in the chat, and the subgroup contacts will appear in the agenda and minutes. Chrishana Fields confirmed the proposal deadline for Part 9 is January 31. Charon McNabb asked whether CO monitoring in ventilation systems had been discussed, and Chrishana Fields said it had not in this work group. Charon McNabb said she would bring it to the carbon monoxide subgroup.

4. Heat vs. Smoke Detector - Sagiv Weiss-Ishai
    i. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai reported that the State Fire Marshal published an Code Interpretation on November 5 concerning heat versus smoke detectors under Section 907. The subgroup, working with Greg Cobabe, Shane Clary, and an NFPA 72 committee expert on multi-criteria and multi-sensor detectors, is drafting a change to Section 907.4.3. The draft would clarify when a heat or other detector may replace a smoke detector and

when it may not. In response to David Secoda's question, Sagiv Weiss-Ishai explained that the scope had broadened after the last meeting. It is no longer limited to building fire safety functions and is now comprehensive, based on detector listings and applications.

ii. The subgroup meets next on December 2 at 10:00 AM. A draft was attached to the invitation and will be shared with the work group. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai planned to circulate a proposal by email in early December and then bring it to the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee meeting in Temecula in February. James Carver noted that the January 31 deadline for triennial proposals might be missed if the proposal waited for that meeting. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai agreed to seek work group review by email in December. Chrishana Fields asked that the work be ready for one of the two December meetings.

iii. Joseph Cervantes offered to have CAFAA's codes and standards committee review the language. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai preferred keeping development within the task group, given the timeline, but welcomed input. Chrishana Fields suggested CAFAA review the finished proposal rather than join the subgroup. Nanci Timmons asked to be added to this subgroup.

5. California Amendments – Chrishana Fields
   i. Chrishana Fields reported that the California Amendments subgroup has not yet met. Its first meeting is planned for the week after Thanksgiving to review whether current California amendments remain necessary given the 2027 changes. She also reported that the ESS in residential garages subgroup was dissolved as there is no potential code change to resolve the lack of detectors currently listed for residential use in environments exceeding 100 degrees. The Building Material Listing unit (Michael Huang) is working with UL on heat detector listings, because the detectors are listed to a maximum of 100 degrees but are tested at higher temperatures. Chrishana Fields will report on any UL decision at the next meeting.

IV. ROUNDTABLE/PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Temporary construction fire alarm subgroup. Joseph Cervantes asked the group to consider a new subgroup on temporary fire alarm and signaling systems for construction. FCAC Working Group 2.5 expects language in December. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai reported that the new Chapter 28 in the 2028 NFPA 72 passed the second draft with 27 votes in favor and one negative vote, from a UL member. He expects it to appear in the second draft report in March, to be acted on at the June NFPA meeting in San Antonio, and to be published in October 2027.

B. Joseph Cervantes asked whether the chapter text should be copied into Chapter 80 of the California Fire Code as an amendment. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai and James Carver advised against adopting unpublished language, noting that California adopts only published NFPA documents and has historically harmonized with NFPA 72. Joseph Cervantes noted that if NFPA 72 is adopted by reference, the remaining changes needed would be in CFC Chapter 33: definitions, construction phasing, and permit requirements for temporary systems. Sagiv Weiss-Ishai suggested a simple pointer to NFPA 72 Chapter 28. Chrishana Fields tabled the NFPA discussion and asked Joseph Cervantes to lead a subgroup on code changes needed to accompany the

2028 NFPA edition. Joseph Cervantes agreed, and interested members were asked to post their emails in the chat.

C. Group E proposals. David Secoda described two proposals from the intervening cycle that did not advance. The first would delete the California amendment requiring above-ceiling smoke and heat detection in public schools (Section 907.2.3). He cited small Type 4 portable classrooms and crawl spaces, where there is little benefit and no recorded fire origination. The second would delete the California amendment requiring one outdoor audible device on school campuses. The first is on the agenda for the December 3 task group meeting, and he sought interested participants for the second. James Carver supported the second proposal.

D. Carbon monoxide in E occupancies. Charon McNabb asked whether CO thresholds for school-age children, identified as a vulnerable population in recent UL 2034 and Fire Protection Research Foundation work, had been discussed. David Secoda said they had not. The matter will be considered in the carbon monoxide subgroup.

V. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

A. Meetings are held every two weeks on Tuesday from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM PST

B. Next meeting: December 1, 2026

C. Upcoming meetings - Tentative:

1. December 15, 2026
2. January 5, 2027
3. January 19, 2027

VI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 9:52 AM PST

A. Motion to adjourn was made by David Secoda and seconded by Sagiv Weiss-Ishai. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

B. Chrishana Fields thanked attendees and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

*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/UpvqgDUs2lg

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