

## **NFPA Technical Committee on Forest and Rural Fire Protection**

### **NFPA 1144 – Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire**

ROP Meeting

February 8-10, 2011

San Antonio, Texas

#### **Members Present:**

Randy Bradley – Chair

Ceci Johnson – USDA FS, WFCS

Bill Hendricks – Safer Building Solutions

Jim Bowman – American Wood Council

Alison Gude – Tyco/Ansul

Herbert Spitzer – consultant

Larry Vandersall – Lawdon Fire

Chuck George – consultant

Gerry LaCavera – Florida

Ken Miller – San Diego County

Greg Kozey – Kocheck

Jignesh Maun – ISO, guest (may be vice Ed Straw)

Dave Bueche – (guest) Joe Holland, alternate, works for Hoover

#### **NFPA Staff Present:**

Ryan Depew – Staff Liaison

Molly Mowery – Wildfire Operations Division, NFPA

**Meeting** opened at 8:10 on February 8, 2011 by Randy Bradley, Chair.

**Review Minutes of October 26-28, 2010 ROC Meeting for NFPA 1141 and NFPA 1142:** Motion to approve minutes from Greg Kozey and seconded by Gerry LaCavera. Motion carried as approved.

#### **Remarks from Staff Liaison and Review of NFPA Code & Standards Process**

Materials are following; but, was delayed by weather. Should arrive this afternoon

NFPA is updating their system. FileMaker will go away. The new system will allow committee to see the document as it is updated, creating a live document.

#### **NFPA Code and Standards Making System Review – Ryan Depew**

No tape recording or other verbatim recording methods.

Chair can limit discussion.

Votes taken during meeting are to establish a sense of agreement.

The official decision is the vote on the mail-in ballot

Committee will go through

Follow Robert's rules of order with motions and seconds

Accept does not require justification.  
All other actions must include a detailed justification.

### **Comments from the Chair:**

Good, active committee membership – 6 documents.  
NFPA has a new focus on the wildland/interface actions.  
Randy on advisory committee of wildland fire protection  
There has been a strong emphasis on 1141/1144. They have taken some direction changes to work on the move to WUI area. They now have 2 clearly separate emphases but are coordinated with areas clearly defined.  
Home ignition zone work. Influence way suburban/rural are developed.  
Randy prefers to allow free flowing discussion when possible.

### **NFPA Activities:**

**Ryan Depew** - Big shift and realignment of NFPA goals and objectives. More emphasis on Wildland and Urban interface issues. Trying to utilize more video and teleconferencing to make meetings more accessible.

**Molly Mowery** – Not just FireWise but wildland fire research. Dave Nuss remains based in Colorado. Also working with International groups especially Canada and South Africa. Working more with media and trying to be more effective with their outreach and public communication.

Ready, Set, Go – working with that group from Fire Chiefs to be sure that messages are not contradictory.

Looking at regulatory tools around the country and trying to get a handle on their effectiveness. What are they using? What are barriers to being effective? How many communities have wildland regulations and tools. Not known but we hope to get some numbers.

Putting on Backyards and Beyond Conference again. This is a FireWise conference.

### **NFPA 1144 ROP Meeting Dates:**

11/23/10 proposal closing  
ROP meeting before 2/25/11  
Get dates from Ryan  
Published

### **Member Updates:**

**Randy Bradley** is Chief of a fire district near where Tunnel Fire started in bay area. Have serious interface issues. They have local, state, federal responsibility about equal division. If has water or slope is generally state responsibility.

**Jignesh Maun** - ISO is rewriting fire rating schedules. Nearly ready to start filing with state insurance agencies. This will replace a 20-30 year old schedule. Will give points to org that adopt some of the special programs.

**Gregory Kozev** – market is down. Working with UL to develop more large scale quarter turn connectors for direct connections to buildings and hydrants.

**Ken Miller** – State, and thus counties, is going through typical roller coaster that occurs when there is a change of governor. This is resulting in a realignment between local and state firefighting responsibilities. Although logic may go one way, the reality may charge in different directions. Why would state wildland responds to an accident, but they are the closest location with medical aid. Much discussion of emergency response, what level should be responsible, and at what pay. Now part of office of emergency services rather than the planning function. Working to combine the limited emergency protection in the unincorporated part of county so it functions as one department. Also sharing some resources to facilitate and streamline inspections and repair of equipment. Now have a fire chief – the local head of CalFire (?)

**Gerry LaCavera** – Budget is biggest issue in Florida. Entire southern region of US has gone through serious budget cuts so there is little ability to share the resources. Number of foreclosed homes are creating a serious issue related to maintenance and vegetation control. Who is responsible. There have been lots of stimulus dollars to assist with vegetation management. Were also able to provide financing for planning for counties. Create FireWise workshops throughout the State. Updating wildfire risk application including canopy descriptions. Developing Wildfire annex to emergency mitigation handbook and wildfire mitigation manual. Southern region putting together a social messaging system. Through surveys they found they were way off on the message. Instead of fire is bad, go for what benefits the forest.

**Chuck George** – Involved with International Fire Conference to be held in South Africa. Information is a little slow getting out since they are currently dealing with a serious fire season.

**Larry Vandersall** – Aware of private fire protection companies contracting with insurance companies.

Randy B - Fairly common in California. There are some state guidelines that were developed. For example the companies must check in with incident which can cause some problems. Can cause some coordination problems which can escalate in an emergency. All people should be treated equally in an emergency situation, regardless of personal income or wealth.

Ken Miller – Some issues with private firefighters with light apparatus. There are some areas where they are tied to other activity, i.e. power line installation that has potential to start fires. The private brigade works with the installing company.

Jignesh is not familiar with this, new to ISO.

**Herb Spitzer** – LA County is having their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in May.

**Alison Gude** – Go Packers. Very busy but not on things that pertain to this committee.

**Dave Bueche** (guest) – harmonizing code activities in wildland fire areas. Building codes and other groups such as NFPA all provide information and requirements. Use of certain residential building codes requires use/adoption of specific codes where the local government may not have the expertise to analyze or enforce. International Code (?)

**Jim Bowman** – serves on the “Green Committee.” Proposal to give precedence to the green requirements when there is a conflict. For example, shading gives points but means there is vegetation in proximity of buildings. Looking for assistance and statistics regarding who is using what.

**Bill Hendricks** – Working on fire issues related to eaves and soffits. In contrast to Cohen’s work with over the top ignition. Eaves and soffits can trap heat in specific areas. Also working with committees on vent issues. Combine E108 with other test requirements.

**Ceci** – Work in support of EIS. Explaining the firefighting operations to specialists is an interesting exercise. Continue to implement long-range plans regarding reporting and monitoring.

### **New Business – NFPA 1144 ROP**

There are 22 proposals to discuss.

Randy – NFPA is trying to standardize definitions but we need to be sure that we use definitions that are reasonable and applicable for our standards.

There was a discussion of committee philosophy regarding other standards and make decisions as to whether or not their interpretation will serve our needs or whether we have a different interpretation or need.

The official proposal time has passed but the committee can make proposals.

### **Review of Proposals**

**CP1 – Entire Document – Accept.** Herb Spitzer moved; Larry Vandersall seconded. **Completed.** Updated all references to NFPA, ASTM, and UL standards. References to NFPA 256 have been removed. Added BEHAVE references and deleted some wildland fire references from the appendices.

- CP4 – D.1.1 - Updated
- CP9 – D1.2.4 – Updated
- CP5 – D.2 – Updated
- CP7 – D.2.2 – Updated
- CP10 – D.2.3 - Updated
- CP6 – D.2.4 – Updated
- CP8 – D.3.1 – Updated

**Log 23 – 2.3.4. and D.1.2.2 – Accept.** Ceci Johnson moved, Larry Vandersall seconded.

**Log 11 – 3.3.4 Combustible and A.3.3.4 (New) – Accept in Part.** Larry Vandersall moved, Ceci Johnson seconded.

“A combustible material is any material that, in the form in which is used and under the conditions anticipated, will ignite and burn or will add appreciable heat to an ambient fire.”

Committee did not see a need to define combustion.

**Log 27 – 3.3.17 4.1.4 and A.4.1.4 –Reject.** Herb Spitzer moved; Larry Vandersall seconded. We will make committee proposals to deal with each section separately.

CP 3.3.17 – Ceci Johnson moved to accept 3.3.17 as written minus the parenthetical material, Allison seconded. “Any material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated, will not ignite, burn, support combustion, or release flammable vapors, when subject to fire or heat.”

**Committee Proposal - Accepted.** Ceci Moved, Larry Vandersall seconded. This is not the last version as accepted. Ryan has the correct version in his notes. Add the material contained in 4.1.4 as annex to 3.3.17: “A.3.3.17. A material that complies with any of the following is considered a noncombustible material. (1) A material that is reported as passing ASTM E-136, Standard Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750 degrees C, is considered a noncombustible material. (2) A material complying with the pass/fail criteria of ASTM E-136 when tested in accordance with the test method and procedure in ASTM E-2652, Standard Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Tube Furnace with a Cone-shaped Airflow Stabilizer, at 750 degrees C, should be considered a noncombustible material. (3) The provisions of 3.3.17 do not require inherently noncombustible materials, including but not limited to steel, concrete, masonry and glass, to be tested in order to be classified as noncombustible materials.

**Log 1 – 3.3.13 – Reject.** Moved by Ceci Johnson; Seconded by Gerry LaCavera

**Log 24 – 3.3.13 – Accept.** Moved by Ceci Johnson; seconded by Herb Spitzer.

**Log 2 – 5.2.1 – Reject.** Bill Hendricks moved, Gerry LaCavera seconded.

There is not a nationally accepted 10 year natural weathering test.

**Log 26 – 5.2.1 – Accept.** Moved by Allison Gude; seconded Ceci Johnson.

**Log 3 – 5.2.1(3) – Reject.** Moved by Herb Spitzer; seconded Ken Miller. Skylights are addressed in 5.6.1.

**Log 4 – 5.2.1(4) – Accept in Principle.** Moved by Gerry LaCavera; seconded by Larry Vandersall.  
**5.2.1 (3)** Roof gutters, down spouts and connectors shall be noncombustible and covered with an approved means to prevent the accumulation of debris.

**Log 12 – 5.2.2 and 5.6 – Accept in Part.** Moved by Ceci Johnson; seconded by Herb Spitzer.  
Rejected all except the addition to 5.6.4 “...or inhibit ember intrusion in an approved manner.”

**Committee Proposal – Accept.** Moved by Herb Spitzer; seconded by Gregory Kozey. Move information in 5.6.5 and 5.6.6 and associated annex material to a new annex to 5.6.4. Include prevailing winds to the consideration of placement. See Ryan’s notes for final version.

**Log 5 – 5.3 – Accept.** Moved by Larry Vandersall; seconded by Bill Hendricks.

2/9/11 - Revisited this issue. **Reject.** Moved by Jim Bowman; second by Ken Miller.

**Log 6 – 5.4 – Accept in Part.** Moved by Herb Spitzer; seconded by Larry Vandersall.

2/9/11 - Revisit this issue. **Reject.** Moved by Larry Vandersall and seconded by Jim Bowman.

**Log 7 – 5.5.1 – Reject.** Moved by Jim Bowman; seconded by Ken Miller.

**Log 8 – 5.6.1 – Reject.** Moved by Larry Vandersall; seconded by Ken Miller.

**Log 9 – 5.6.3 – Reject.** Moved by Ken Miller; seconded by Jim Bowman

**Log 10 – 5.9.1 – Reject.** Moved by Larry Vandersall; seconded by Ceci Johnson.

**Log 13 – A.3.3.13 – Accept.** Moved by Herb Spitzer; seconded by Larry Vandersall.

**Log 25 – A.3.3.13 – Accept.** Moved by Larry Vandersall; seconded by Chuck George.

**Log 14 – D.1.1 – Accept.** Moved by Larry Vandersall; seconded by Gerry LaCavera

**Log 15 – D.1.2.3 – Accept.** Moved by Larry Vandersall; seconded by Herb Spitzer.

**Log 28 – 5.1.1.3 (New) – Accept in Principle.** Moved by Ken Miller; seconded by Gregory Kozey. Add a new section 5.2 Construction Design and Materials. See Ryan’s notes for details.

### **Other Business**

Comment period for 1144 is July and August 2011

Fire & Structures 2011 (Conference) Had info reported on gel work being performed

**Gel Issues:** Try to remember where we were.

**Next Committee Meeting:** October 25-26, 2011 (Tues & Wed) Denver CO

The Backyards and Beyond 10/27-29/11 – Randy will try to get us scholarships for the conference.

[Pre-conference workshop, 10/25-26, is about the Fire Assessment & Hazard Ignition Zone – lots of fire science information.]

Adjourned: Wed Feb 9, 2011 11:45