

MINUTES

HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE

14 NOVEMBER 2000
 RCID ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
 LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
2. Members and guests present were:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Joe Bermes*	Indian Health Service (IHS)
Ken Bush*	MD SFM Office-IFMA
Doug Ericson	ASHE
Ken Faulstich*	VA
Tom Gardner	Gage-Babcock & Associates, Representing AHCA
Phil Hoge*	US Army Corps of Engineers (DOD)
Tom Jaeger	Gage-Babcock & Associates, Representing AHCA
Dean Samet*	JCAHO
Dale Woodin	ASHE
Robert Solomon	NFPA
Jacqueline Parker (Guest)	IHS

*Eligible to vote on Interpretation Issues.

3. The agenda was reviewed. Added items included discussion on a request from JCAHO concerning non-required systems and a request from IHS concerning protection schemes for medical records storage areas.
4. The minutes of the May 2000 meeting were approved, with a correction to the spelling of Mr. Hoge's name, as submitted.
5. The following issues were addressed and an action was taken as noted:

JCAHO Request-Coded Announcement: This request centers on the allowance to utilize a coded announcement, for purposes of conducting a fire drill, during the hours other than those listed in NFPA 101 (1997), Section 13-7.1.2. Specifically, the question asks if the use of a coded announcement is permitted between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00PM. The HITF determined that no action could be taken on this request. The following items were discussed. First, the basic requirement of NFPA 101:13-7.1.2, intends that a part of the drill is to familiarize the staff "... with the signals and emergency action required under varied conditions." This includes verifying the ability of staff to coordinate their activities and communicate while the alarm is sounding. Waiving the audible signal at select, normal sleeping hours is already permitted. Extending

this special permission would require a change to this section of NFPA 101. Given that audible alarms are required in healthcare occupancies by NFPA 101: 12/13-3.4.3.1, such devices are clearly intended to be utilized as a part of the drill exercise in NFPA 101: 12/13-7.1.2. It is for these reasons that no action can be taken on this item.

JCAHO Request-Non-Required Systems: This request centers a need to clarify the general types of equipment that can be left in place and otherwise not maintained. The 2000 edition of NFPA 101 has clarified this item to make it clear that the types of equipment or systems involved are not obvious to the public. The HITF agreed that a clarification of the 1997 code would be appropriate. See HITF Interpretation on this issue.

6. Joe Bermes (IHS) asked if there is any new or additional information concerning strategies for protecting medical records storage areas. Information on fixed storage, as well as mobile compact shelf storage, the solutions to dealing with the 18-inch clearance between the sprinkler and the top of the storage, and related information is being sought. Mr. Bermes will prepare some added information for the next meeting of the HITF.
7. Old Business. An item was noted from the May meeting relating to a HCFA policy memo on sprinkler protection and closets/wardrobes. A request was made that this item be obtained and sent to the HITF.
8. New Business. Robert Solomon reported that he would work to get the NFPA website posting of HITF information a little easier to locate. HITF information is routinely repositioned, and can sometimes not be found. In addition, a more standard format is being worked on for the interpretations. The last interpretation was included as a part of the meeting minutes only. It was not a separate post.
9. Date and location for next meeting. The HITF will plan to meet in May of 2001 during the NFPA Spring meeting in Anaheim, CA. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15 May 2001 from 4:00-6:00 PM.
10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Minutes prepared by Robert Solomon, PE NFPA