Healthcare Interpretations Task Force
AGENDA
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
Meeting Room 152
Boston, MA

June 6, 2017
1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

● Call to Order 1:00 P.M.

● Introduction of Members and Guests. [Page 02.]

● Review of Questions.
  ● Quarterly Fire Drills in Health Care Facilities. [Page 04.]
  ● Protective Mesh on Oxidizing Gas Cylinders. [Page 06.]

● Old Business.
  o NFPA 241 - Separation Requirements during Construction.

● New Business.

● Date / Location for Next Meeting.

● Adjournment by 6:00 PM.
Chad E. Beebe
Principal
ASHE - AHA
PO Box 5756
Lacey, WA 98509-5756
Alternate: David A. Dagenais

Kenneth E. Bush
Principal
Maryland State Fire Marshals Office
301 Bay Street, Lower Level
Easton, MD 21601-2721
International Fire Marshals Association
Alternate: Kim L. Osborn

Philip J. Hoge
Principal
US Army Corps of Engineers
Humphreys Engineer Center
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7701 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315-3813
Alternate: G. Brian Prediger

Bradley C. Keyes
Principal
Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program
142 East Ontario Street
Chicago, IL 60611
Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program
Alternate: Joseph L. Cappiello

David P. Klein
Principal
US Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 800
Mail Code: (10NA8)
Washington, DC 20420
Alternate: Peter A. Larrimer

Nick Lu
Principal
Indian Health Service
Division of Engineering Services
701 5th Avenue, Suite 1600, MS RX-24
Seattle, WA 98104
Alternate: Joseph Bermes

James Merrill II
Principal
US Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
7500 Security Boulevard, M/S S2-12-25
Baltimore, MD 21244-1849
Alternate: Martin Casey

George Mills
Principal
The Joint Commission
Department of Engineering
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Eric R. Rosenbaum
Principal
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American Health Care Association
Alternate: Phil Thomas

Charlie Schlegel
Principal
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Division of Safety Inspection
2150 Herr Street, 1st Floor, Suite A
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State Health Care Agency (SHA)
Alternate: John L. Williams

Randall Snelling
Principal
Det Norske Veritas Healthcare
Chief Physical Environment Officer
400 Techne Center Drive, Suite 100
Milford, OH 45150-3706

Robert E. Solomon
Principal
National Fire Protection Association
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169-7471
Alternate: Gregory E. Harrington
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19.7.1.6 Drills shall be conducted quarterly on each shift to familiarize facility personnel (nurses, interns, maintenance engineers, and administrative staff) with the signals and emergency action required under varied conditions.

Some AHJs are not permitting the mandated quarterly fire drills to be conducted within the same hour of a day (for example: between 6:00 am and 7:00 am) even though the quarterly fire drills are conducted three months apart from the preceding and subsequent quarterly fire drills.

The requirement to conduct drills “under varied conditions” generally has the drills being conducted in a different part of the health care building (different unit) and on a different floor level. The duties of the employees within the smoke compartment where the alarm occurs are very different than the duties of employees who are remote from the smoke compartment where the alarm occurs. Those employees who are in the smoke compartment where the alarm occurs will likely be required to perform RACE as part of the drill (if the compartment provides patient care) while those employees who are remote will perform other duties as identified in the fire response plan. In addition, it should be noted that employees often work different shifts so staff present during a subsequent quarterly drill might not be the same staff as those present during the previous or subsequent drill.

**QUESTION 1** (Same day of week):

For quarterly fire drills that are conducted on the same shift, is it the intent of the Life Safety Code that the quarterly drills be permitted to be conducted on the same day of the week as the previous or subsequent quarterly drill?

**QUESTION 2** (Within same hour of day):

For quarterly fire drills that are conducted on the same shift, is it the intent of the Life Safety Code that the quarterly drills be permitted to be conducted within the same hour of the day as the hour of day that the previous or subsequent quarterly drill was conducted?
QUESTION 3 (Same day of week and within same hour of day):

For quarterly fire drills that are conducted on the same shift and on the same day of the week as the previous or subsequent drill, is it the intent of the Life Safety Code that the quarterly drills are permitted to be conducted within the same hour of the day as the hour of the day that the previous or subsequent quarterly drill was conducted?

QUESTION 4 (Different day of week and within same hour of day):

For quarterly fire drills that are conducted on the same shift and on a different day of the week as the previous or subsequent drill, is it the intent of the Life Safety Code that the quarterly drills are permitted to be conducted within the same hour of the day as the hour of the day that the previous or subsequent quarterly drill was conducted?
BACKGROUND INFORMATION (optional):

**NFPA 99, 2012 Edition:**

11.3.2.3 Oxidizing gases such as oxygen and nitrous oxide shall be separated from combustibles or materials by one of the following:

1. Minimum distance of 6.1 m (20 ft)

2. Minimum distance of 1.5 m (5 ft) if the entire storage location is protected by an automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems

3. Enclosed cabinet of noncombustible construction having a minimum fire protection rating of 1/2 hour

**NFPA 99, 2015 Edition:**

11.3.2.3 Oxidizing gases such as oxygen and nitrous oxide shall be separated from combustibles or flammable materials by one of the following:

1. Minimum distance of 6.1 m (20 ft)

2. Minimum distance of 1.5 m (5 ft) if the entire storage location is protected by an automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems
**QUESTION:**

For cylinders that are stored in accordance with Chapter 11 of NFPA 99, is it the intent of NFPA 99 to require the protective plastic mesh that is often found on cylinders during shipment to be removed once the cylinders are received at the health care facility?