Report of the Committee on Record Protection

Thomas Goonan, Chair
Turn Goonan Assoc., VA

Forrest V. Weir, Secretary
U.S. Nat'l Archives & Records Admin, MD

(Alt. to J. J. Urban)

Staff Liaison: Milosh T. Puehovsky

William L. Testa, Grinnell Fire Protection Systems Co. Inc., RI

Woodrow W. Stratton, U.S. Library of Congress, DC

Melvyn Musson, American Risk Protection Consultants, MO

Warren D. Bonisch, Schirmer Engr Corp., VA

Alfred R. Baker, American Nuclear Insurers, OR

Jesse L. Clark, The Records Mgmt. Group, NJ

Tom V. Clark, M&M Protection Consultants, GA

Bert M. Cohn, Bert Cohn Assoc., Inc., IL

Leon deValinger, Jr., Dover, DE

Rep. SAA

George P. Garland, Star Fire Protection Co., NY

Stephen E. Hannestad, U.S. Nat'l Archives and Records Admin, MD

Murvan M. Maxwell, Maxwell & LeBreton Architects, LA

Melvyn Musson, American Risk Protection Consultants, MO

Gerald W. O'Rourke, O'Rourke & Co., CA

Charles A. Sabah, C. A. Sabah & Co., Inc., CA

Woodrow W. Straton, U.S. Library of Congress, DC

William L. Testa, Grinnell Fire Protection Systems Co. Inc., RI


James J. Urban, Underwriters Laboratories Inc., IL

Alternate

Howard J. Gruszynski, Underwriters Laboratories Inc., IL

(Alt. to J. J. Urban)

Jack Thacker, Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corp. of S. CA, CA

(Alt. to W. L. Testa)

Staff Liaison: Milosh T. Puchovsky

This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the protection of books, papers, plans and other records from loss incident to fire.

This portion of the Technical Committee Report of the Committee on Record Protection is presented for adoption.

This Report on Comments was prepared by the Technical Committee on Record Protection and documents its action on the comments received on its Report on Proposals for the 1995 Annual Meeting. This document will be redesignated NFPA 232A, Guide for Fire Protection for Archives and Records Centers.

This Report on Comments has been submitted to letter ballot of the Technical Committee on Record Protection, which consists of 16 voting members. The results of the balloting can be found in the report.

NFPA 232AM — A95 ROC

232AM-1 - (5-1.7.9): Accept

SUBMITTER: Larry F. Miller, National Electrical Mfrs. Association

COMMITTEE ON PROPOSAL NO: 232AM-4

RECOMMENDATION: Revise paragraph 5-1.7.2 as follows: 5-1.7.2 Three categories of input signals normally are provided:

- Alarm, supervisory and trouble monitoring (or supervisory). Alarm signals take priority over supervisory and trouble signals and include activation of manual pull stations, fire alarm boxes, signals from automatic smoke and heat detectors, waterflow indications from sprinkler systems and agent-release signals from special hazard suppression systems. Supervisory signals take priority over trouble signals and include activation by off-normal sprinkler functions (such as temperature, pressure, valve position, etc).

SUBSTANTIATION: None

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept

NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: 16

VOTE ON COMMITTEE ACTION:

AFFIRMATIVE: 11

NOT RETURNED: Baker, Clark, deValinger, Garland, O'Rourke

232AM-2 - (5-4.2 (New)): Hold for Further Study

SUBMITTER: Charles A. Sabah, Pleasanton, CA

COMMITTEE ON PROPOSAL NO: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: Add new text:

5-4.2 Clean Gaseous Agent Systems. Halon 1301 has provided rapid, clean extinguishment of fires as a first line of defense and proved to be extremely effective when combined with, or backed up by, an automatic sprinkler system. It should be noted, however, that due to the deleterious effect that Halon 1301 and other chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) have on the stratospheric ozone, international health organizations have severely limited current production of CFCs and will totally ban production by the year 2000. However, Halon 1301 may continue to be available for essential uses (for both new systems and for retrofitting existing systems) by recycling from nonessential uses. It is important that existing systems be serviced and maintained on a regular basis to avoid accidental discharges. Nevertheless, as reserves of Halon 1301 become scarce, this agent can be expected to become expensive for most applications.

New gaseous agents substituting for Halons have been approved by EPA and are now available. Clean gaseous agent systems consist of a supply of extinguishing agent in one or more containers and a nozzle(s) strategically placed in (throughout) the protected, enclosed space. The containers can be centrally located and connected to the nozzle(s) by a piping network or placed at various locations in or near the hazard, with each container connected directly to its nozzle or piped or to one more nozzles. The types of nozzles selected, and their placement, should be such that their force of discharge will not adversely affect the building or room contents. "Clean" agents are not known to chemically damage sensitive documents, which often makes them preferred to other types of fire extinguishing systems. To be effective, however, these agents must be tightly contained within the room being protected. They are best suited for protecting the sensitive and delicate contents of a room (not the building structure). Where a high reliability of operation is needed for protection of high-value collections, a back-up system, such as an automatic sprinkler system in combination with a total flooding gaseous agent system, should be considered. The new clean agents, while similar to Halon 1301, may not be compatible with existing containers and other components.
Explicit warning information and instructions for building occupants should be conspicuously posted. Similar precautions may be needed for other special extinguishing systems.

Clean agent systems are described in NFPA 2001, Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems.

**SUBSTANTIATION:** Halon 1301 is no longer being produced and is becoming difficult and expensive to obtain. Substitute agents are available, approved and in use. Existing text is obsolete.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Hold for Further Study.

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** This is new material which is not addressed by a specific proposal. Although the committee believes that halons and clean gaseous agents should be further addressed with regard to records protection, taking action at this time would not allow for a public review period and violate NFPA procedures. The committee has agreed to resume discussion on this matter during the next revision cycle.

**NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE:** 16

**VOTE ON COMMITTEE ACTION:**

AFFIRMATIVE: 11

NOT RETURNED: Baker, Clark, deValinger, Garland, O'Rourke