

# Seattle Fire Department Fire Code Advisory Board

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Fire Code Advisory Board Meeting – Meeting Minutes of Jan 12, 2021, 1:00-3:00PM

Location: Webex

## Board Members Attending

Scott Peterson	Amy Liu	Fritz Chess	Hugo Sotelo
Carlene M Comrie	Chris Todd	Kevin Marr	Brad Middleton
Jim Fair			

## Guests Attending

Louise (Flo-arts)	Zee Parker (Flo-arts)	Arlene Smith (Flo-arts)	Desert Black (Flo-arts)
Ricky Campbell (Local 699 Sprinkler Fitters)			

## Board Members Absent

Kurt Lustig	Rae Anne Rushing		Tara Henriksen
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## Fire Department Members Attending

Ken Brouillette	Robert Noble	Derek Williamson	Rich Richardson
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Acting Chairperson Hugo Sotelo called the meeting to order at 13:14 hours; a quorum was present.

## Items for Review and Discussion:

- I. Draft of 2018 fire code was sent out, including state amendments. Main discussion today is Chapter 40
  - A. New chapter from State of Washington
  - B. Based on 2017 version of NFPA 130
- II. Final amendments to Chapter 40 (in draft that was sent out)
  - A. Section 5.3.3.6 (Alternate Egress)
    1. Removed first exception (public circulation route) that was added in 2015 NFPA 130
    2. This amendment just keeps the chapter the same as it was prior to the change
  - B. All proposed changes match 2011 except for some small updates to fix references
  - C. Motion to accept mad, seconded and approved unanimously
- III. Chapter 41 is based on NFPA 502 (2017). Most amendments are to match with Seattle's 2012 code.

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- A. Chapter 7 (Road tunnels). This section attempts to “future proof” against potential future projects that may involve multiple sections of tunnel.
  - 1. 7.2: Multiple tunnels can have their length combined to determine coverage requirements.
  - 2. 7.4.3: Amendment specifies when CCTV is required (Category B, C, D, or as required by fire code official)
  - 3. 7.5.1: Change “authority having jurisdiction” to “fire code official”
  - 4. 7.10.1: Removes “conditionally” to make fixed systems mandatory for categories A, B, C, D.
- B. Chapter 9 (Fixed water-based fire-fighting systems)
  - 1. 9.1.1: Adds requirement that all interior spaces shall be protected except for Category X (under 300 feet) tunnels.
  - 2. 9.1.2: Expands the list of available NFPA’s that can be used for tunnel coverage. This brings the city in alignment with the base code language.
- C. Chapter 10 just adds “and Emergency Responder System” to the title
- D. Chapter 14 (regulated and unregulated cargoes)
  - 1. 14.1.1: Adds “new” to charging language. Chapter 14 applies to all new tunnels longer than 300 feet
    - i. Hugo: What if there's a continuation of an existing tunnel? how is that defined?
      - (a) Chief Williamson: I think we would consider the addition a new tunnel and categorize based on the total length.
      - (b) Hugo: Would the previous addition need to be upgraded if an addition changed the tunnel’s categorization?
      - (c) Chief Williamson: It would probably be a case by case answer depending on the specific project. For context, the previous version required coverage in a tunnel of any length. The goal of these amendments is to be more flexible.
    - ii. Added a third exception for tunnels that are approved by the fire-code official
- E. Kevin Marr: Is there a reason we referenced the specific edition year? Is that something we are starting to do?
  - 1. Ken: The state of Washington did that for chapter 41, and we transferred it over based on Law’s recommendation.
- F. Kevin Marr: When did we move to “fire fighting system” from “fire protection system”?
  - 1. Ken: “Firefighting” term is from NFPA 502, it’s not a change to the overall code.
  - 2. Hugo: Would it be good to add this information to the definitions.
  - 3. Ken: Its better to keep it all in NFPA 502 (this chapter’s reference)
- G. Motion to approve chapter 41 made by Kevin, seconded by Scott. Motion approved unanimously

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- IV. Ken: This is the final meeting before we send the 2018 code to law unless there are questions/objections/changes from the FCAB.
- A. Kevin Marr: When did you send the whole draft.
  - B. Ken: I sent it last week.
  - C. Kevin Marr: I don't recall approving chapter 9. Did the board approve it?
  - D. Ken: I'll have to look through the minutes to be sure, but I believe it was at a meeting you missed.
  - E. Multiple board members reported not receiving the draft.
  - F. Chief Williamson: After talking with Bellevue chiefs about NFPA 130 re Sound Transit, I have a suggested change.
    - 1. 6.3.1.4 (Emergency Egress): Currently allows a tunnel without exits or cross passage doors up to 2500 ft. That would make both fighting fires and evacuation very difficult. Bellevue's chief is suggesting requiring reducing the distance to 800 feet.
    - 2. Ken: Is that something that Bellevue is also going to be doing?
    - 3. Chief: Yes
    - 4. Ken: Would the board be comfortable with us working to bring our code and Bellevue's code into a matching state.
      - i. Kevin: I'm ok with that? Would that require an amendment?
      - ii. Ken: We can just amend the approval to change 6.3.1.4 to be 800 feet.
      - iii. Chris Todd: Are cross-passageways possible to alleviate that problem.
      - iv. Chief: Yes. That would be considered an exit, as long as they have the 2-hour separation.
    - 5. Motion to approve additional amendment to 6.3.1.4 as read by Scott, seconded by Brad. Motioned passed unanimously.
  - G. If we need further changes, we do still have the option of errata and Ad-Rules, but we are coming up on the time to start moving towards publication.
  - H. Kevin: In chapter 9, there are references to the ad-rule 9.03.19 that should be 9.03.20.
    - 1. Ken: I will get that changed.
  - I. Question from Desert (Guest): I was looking at the public version of the document and I see a reference to "FIRE PERFORMANCE ART." In section 302, that states a "The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:"; however, there is no definition on Chapter 2, or other mention of "Fire Performance Arts". Is Fire Performance Arts still under Flame Effect Operator Before and Audience?
    - 1. Ken: It looks like that definition didn't get included. It also seems to be missing from the 2015 and 1212 codes.
    - 2. Rich: There's a definition in an ad-rule
    - 3. Ken: It doesn't look like we don't actually use the term outside of the definitions section. It should be deleted from section 302.
  - J. Motion to approve 2018 Seattle Fire Code as read by Kevin, seconded by Chris. Motioned approved unanimously.

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- V. Steps after cleaning up changes
  - A. Posted to website
  - B. Goes to legal and the mayor's office
  - C. Feb 9: Public Safety committee
  - D. Feb 15: City council
  - E. State committee pushed their vote on the code until July 1<sup>st</sup>. City of Seattle had planned to implement on March 16<sup>th</sup>. There have been multiple petitions to the governor to not approve the postponement and the governor has 9 days to respond. We might need to change our effective date based on what the state does.
  - F. On demand mobile fueling rule making is currently working through the state process. Those proposed changes have not been included because they had not completed the state's process. They may come out as an erratum.
- VI. Motion to adjourn from Brad. Seconded by Kevin. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned by acting chairperson Hugo Sotelo at 14:30.