



Draft Minutes

DARAC Meeting
Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601

June 9-10, 2013

1) **Call to Order.** The Meeting was called to order by Chair Toby Olson at 9:05 a.m. on Sunday, June 9, 2013 in the Wrigley meeting room at the Hyatt.

2) **Attendees.**

Present	Name	Position
Y	Rocky Burks	Retired Access Manager, D.O.T, City of Sacramento, CA
Y	Allan Fraser	NFPA Staff
Y	Marsha Mazz	US Access Board Representative
Y	Marilyn Golden	DREDF
Y	Gail Minger	Michael H. Minger Foundation
Y	Tom Norton	Norel
N	Richard Skaff	Designing Accessible Communities
Y	Toby Olson	Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Y	Stephen Spinetto	
Y	Mary Troupe	Exec. Director, Just Advocacy

Guests:

Orlando Hernandez	NFPA, Public Fire Protection
Marty Aherns	NFPA, One Stop Data Shop
Judy Comoletti	NFPA Public Education
Lisa Braxton	NFPA Public Education
Kathryn Turner	MediPal Co.
Kelsey Smith	Intern, Michael H. Minger Memorial Foundation

3) The minutes of September 14, 2012 Conference Call were approved by a vote of 7-0-1 with Mr. Burks abstaining as he was not on the call.

4) DARAC requested that a copy of the handouts for the staff presentation of “It Takes a Team to Build Accessible” as well as Utawna Leap’s 2009 Conference & Expo presentation on a: “Case Study: Building a Fully Sprinklered, Fully Accessible Single Family Home.”

5) Staff provided the Committee with updates on the following NFPA initiatives:

- All the programs related to people with disabilities here at C&E
- e-ACCESS
- Residential Sprinkler Initiative
- NFPA 101/5000
 - i. Visitability
 - ii. Elevators
 - iii. Stair descent devices-*RESNA STD-1*
- 28th CSUN Conference on Technology & People with Disabilities
 - i. Session
 - ii. Booth
- Pacific ADA Center Webinar – April 10, 2013
- New section “Accessibility Expo”
- 2013 National ADA Symposium
- Potential that staff may present at the 2013 Abilities Expo -Boston
- 2013 NFPA Backyards & Beyond Conference, Nov. 14-16, Salt Lake City, UT-Fraser featured presentation: *Are You Ignoring 20% of Your Population When Planning for Wildland Fires?*
- UMASS Boston

6) NFPA Public Fire’s Orlando Hernandez gave the Committee a presentation on the background leading up to the new project: “Common Mass Evacuation Planning.” He requested input, and possibly representation on the committee, from DARAC. T. Norton gave him a contact person with the Massachusetts National Guard who would be a likely candidate to help. There was good dialogue between Mr. Hernandez and the Committee who thanked him for his excellent presentation.

7) NFPA Research and Analysis Division’s Marty Aherns presented their research report: “Physical disability as a factor in home fire deaths: by Ben Evarts, May 2012. The committee asked a number of questions.

Mr. Olson suggest that a training manual or program for those local people who enter information into the NIRS system might help improve the quality and even the quantity of data across the board not just that related to people with disabilities. Ms. Aherns requested DARAC put together a “wish-list” for data collection that would be viable. Then the Research & Analysis Division might be able to find individual states or major cities that might be willing to participate in a pilot project.

8) NFPA Public Education Division’s Lisa Braxton gave the committee a presentation on its “Fire Safety for People with Disabilities Task Force”, current products, plans

for new products, information and programs provided to the public related to people with disabilities. The committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Braxton and Division Manager, Judy Comoletti about the accessibility of a number of postings and various products on the website and their accessibility with respect to assistive devices like “screen readers”. They also asked about the availability of hard copy products in other accessible formats including large print and Braille.

- 9) Following the department presentations, DARAC had a lengthy discussion regarding what it has heard and seen. The committee strongly recommends that the Public Education Division specifically, but NFPA in general, needs take a fully integrated approach when developing all fire and life safety materials for the public. For example, they discussed home escape plans or lessons aimed at children. They stated that such material should provide information for all children including those in the five major categories of disabilities. Individual products or lessons for those who are blind or low vision, those who are deaf or hard of hearing, those with cognitive disabilities and those without disabilities are no longer appropriate. DARAC wants NFPA to be a leader in providing inclusiveness in all its material.

DARAC members indicated that they are very concerned with the apparent inconsistency between NFPA’s desire to be inclusive with respect to fire and life safety for people with disabilities, its charge to DARAC and the lack of accessibility of the materials it makes available to the public. DARAC sees a global issue with NFPA’s website and the materials posted on it as they are generally not in accessible formats. The committee strongly recommends that NFPA develop a strategy and a time frame to make the website and all materials that are available to the public accessible.

DARAC has instructed staff to deliver its concerns to NFPA and it will follow-up to see if further efforts are required.

- 10) DARAC booth in the expo hall June 10-12 at NFPA Conference and Expo in Chicago:
- a) Staff informed the committee that a CD has been made for the Committee members to handout at the booth. Additional items at the booth are:
 - i) A complete copy of the 2010 DOJ Accessibility Standards
 - ii) NFPA’s “Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities”
 - iii) NFPA’s “Personal Emergency Evacuation Planning Tool for School Students with Disabilities”
 - iv) All 22 back issues of “e-ACCESS” our free quarterly newsletter on fire and life safety issues for people with disabilities, their relative and caregivers.
 - v) A half dozen or so NFPA articles about disability issues
 - vi) DARAC’s charge

vii) Free video on evacuation produced by St. Petersburg College under FEMA grant

11) Updates: The committee requested and received an update from staff about the status of the matter of the decision as to which technical committee will be responsible for scoping the “Visitability” requirements. DARAC has voted to recommend to the CC that it be placed with BLD-BSY. Staff will update the committee after the CC meeting in November. The committee indicated that they may wish to provide formal comment(s) as a committee or as individuals. Staff will keep the committee updated as to all filing deadlines well in advance as well as names of the committee members on both TCs.

12)New Business:

- a) Marsha Mazz said that former Director of the Mass. Architectural Access Board and current US Access Board member Deb Ryan is putting together an exhibit/display for “abx”, formerly “Build Boston”, show Nov. 14-16 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center that may be suitable for inclusion in NFPA’s expo. She will check it out and report back.

- b) Due to an internal reorganization of staff, Jenny Depew has been assigned to be the project administrator to provide support to DARAC through the staff liaison. The committee directed the Chair to draft a letter of appreciation to former support administrator Diane Matthews for all of her excellent work and dedication to the committee since its inception in 2004. The chair will circulate a draft for review, input and comment before sending to the staff liaison for official transmittance to Diane with copies to Jim Shannon, Chris Dubay, Robert Solomon and Amy Cronin.

13)The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm on Monday, June 10, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan B. Fraser, NFPA Staff Liaison