



DARA

(Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee)

Mandalay Bay Convention Center Palm “A” & “B” Las Vegas, NV

June 8th – 9th, 2014

- 1) **Call to Order.** The Meeting was called to order by Chair Toby Olson at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 8, 2014 in Palm “A” meeting room at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center.
- 2) **Committee 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
N	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	Retired ADA Commissioner, City of Boston
Y	Mary Troupe	Exec. Director, Just Advocacy

Guests:

Marty Ahrens	NFPA, Fire Analysis & Research Division
Jose Ballester	Member of the Public
Kristin Bigda (via Skype)	NFPA Building Fire Protection & Life Safety

Ray Bizal	NFPA Regional Director, Southwest
Lorraine Carli	NFPA VP Communications & Outreach
Judy Comoletti	NFPA Public Education
Glenn Hedman	University of Illinois-Chicago
Jeffery Hudson	NFPA Regional Sprinkler Specialist
Amanda Kimball	Fire Protection Research Foundation
Jim Pauley	NFPA President & CEO
Karen Berard-Reed	NFPA Public Education
Richard Roberts	Honeywell Life Safety

- 3) The minutes of June 9-10, 2013 meeting were approved by a vote of 5-2-0. The committee agreed with Mr. Burks request to have motions and votes thereon included in the minutes. The committee requested staff to get minutes out as soon as possible after the meeting.
- 4) NFPA Fire Analysis & Research Division's Marty Ahrens updated the committee on their research report: "Physical disability as a factor in home fire deaths": by Ben Evarts, May 2012. She requested input from the committee on the Report's updated fact sheet which they provided.

The committee also suggested that NFPA's Fire Research & Analysis Division:

- send out a press release along with the executive summary,
 - advocate with NFIRS for better and more complete data collection as related to people with disabilities
 - Marsha Mazz said that the US Access Board would be willing to host a forum in Washington, DC to present the report's findings. The US Access Board would be willing to invite federal & national agencies to attend.
- 5) DARAC would like NFPA to invite a representative from the U.S. Fire Administration to attend the next DARAC meeting to discuss the NFIRS system. Staff will find the appropriate path and make the request once the date and location are determined.
 - 6) The committee discussed a proposed New NFPA project: "Professional Practices for Facility Fire Safety Planning and Fire Safety Directors" as requested by NFPA and approved the following comment for submission to the Standards Council for its August, 2014 meeting:
 - a) "If approved, the project should be inclusive in all of its procedures and include specific requirements related to people with disabilities."

- 7) NFPA's Kristin Bigda reviewed NFPA's "High Rise Building Safety Advisory Committee's" newly published guidelines on creating an Emergency Action Plan for All-Hazard Emergencies. The committee asked a number of questions and then on a motion by T. Norton, seconded by R. Burks, voted 7-0-0 to send a letter to Jim Pauley requesting that he appoint at least one person with a disability to the High Rise Building Safety Advisory Committee.
- 8) NFPA's incoming president and CEO, Jim Pauley along with VP of Communications and Outreach, Lorraine Carli visited with the committee. Mr. Pauley gave a brief overview of his background and expressed his passion and excitement for his new position. He responded to several questions from the committee but noted that there were three topics with which he was not yet well versed, but he promised to research and then respond to the committee. Committee members expressed appreciation to Mr. Pauley for taking the time to stop by the meeting and that they look forward to working with him. (Editor's Note: Mr. Pauley did follow up with a letter to DARAC on July 14th, 2014.)
- 9) Staff provided the Committee with updates on the following NFPA initiatives:
 - a) Programs here in Las Vegas
 - b) Accessibility Expo
 - i) Number of booths
 - ii) Informational Presentations
 - iii) New banner
 - iv) e-ACCESS (URL on Post card)
 - c) "Guides" and related seminars & Information
 - d) Residential Sprinkler Initiative
 - e) NFPA 101/5000
 - i) Visitability (Type "C" Units)
 - ii) Elevators
 - iii) Stair descent devices
 - f) Articles
 - i) Campus Fire Safety
 - g) 29th CSUN Conference on Technology & People with Disabilities
 - i) Sessions
 - ii) Booth
 - h) Keynote presentation to Joint Training for the Sargent-at-Arms staffs of both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House – April, 2014
 - i) 2014 National ADA Symposium
 - j) 2013 NFPA Backyards & Beyond Conference
 - i) "Spotlight Session": Evacuation Planning For People with Disabilities
 - k) Abilities Expo – Boston
 - i) Sept. 2013 "Evacuating Safely-One Size Doesn't Fit All!"

- ii) Submitted for Sept. 2014, "Are You Part of the 20% of the Population Being Ignored in Evacuation Planning?"

10) NFPA Public Fire Protection Division's Orlando Hernandez provided staff a draft of the new project: "Common Mass Evacuation Planning" on March 25, 2014 which was then distributed to the committee. It is tentatively scheduled to be posted for public input sometime in August 2014. The committee discussed areas of primary concern and the Chair requested members to send additional items and comments to the chair. Staff will work with the chair to submit those comments through the online system as soon as it becomes available. Primary areas of concern included:

- a) Most of the provisions for people with disabilities are located in a "non-enforceable" annex rather than in the body of the standard,
- b) Much of the terminology is not that used by the disability community both for the general public nor for the regulatory community,
- c) The document is in need of an editorial review,
- d) Why are "categories" included? They appear to have no relevance to the subject,
- e) Many sections of the document appear to be "lifted" from FEMA and use language that is not appropriate for this document,
- f) There are many terms that need to be defined.

11) NFPA Public Education Division's Judy Comoletti and Karen Berard-Reed gave the committee an update 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. Comoletti and Ms. Berard-Reed about the accessibility of a number of postings and various products on the website and their plans to make new postings and products accessible. In response to questions about prioritization from Pub Ed staff, the committee said that they suggested that the order of priority (ideally) for accessibility work should be:

- a) All new postings such as pamphlets, flyers, etc. in PDF format,
- b) Alternative text for all graphics
- c) Closed captioning for all videos
- d) ASL for all videos
- e) Existing postings

12) NFPA's Ray Bizal, Regional Director, Southwest and Jeff Hudson, NFPA Regional Sprinkler Specialist met with the committee to ask for their help in identifying a person or people with disabilities in each region who would be qualified and willing to help testifying on sprinkler legislation. The committee gave them a number of names and also committee members contact information if they need additional help.

13) NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation's Amanda Kimball updated the committee on the following projects:

- a) Fire Alarms and People with ASD: A Literature Summary
- b) Fire Alarms and People with ASD: A Literature Summary Activity Summary
- c) Fire Alarms and At Risk Populations

14) New Business:

The committee discussed several items related to NFPA 72, currently in cycle.

- i. The first were two proposed changes to annex sections A.14.2.1.1 (Public comment #230) and A.18.1 (Public comment #229). After discussion, the committee voted 7-0-0 to recommend to the NFPA 72 TC that they replace the last sentence of both paragraphs with following language: "Designers and AHJ's are advised to consider alternative means in occupancies that have individuals with cognitive disabilities. In addition, persons responsible for evacuation planning should consider specific training for individuals with cognitive disabilities to familiarize them with audible and visual signals and what responses are necessary based on their capabilities and any alternative means used."
- ii. Richard Roberts from Honeywell Life Safety gave a presentation to the committee to support his request for DARAC to send a letter of support to the to the NFPA 72 project in support of the concept expressed in PC 111 and PC 3 which would reduce the pulse width duration from 200 milliseconds (ms) to 20 ms in order to ensure that public mode visible notification appliances continue to provide effective occupant notification, especially in indirect viewing, which would be of benefit- particularly for people with vision impairments in indirect viewing situations. On a motion by R. Burks, seconded by T. Norton, the committee voted 7-0-0 to support the PC's and directed staff to send a letter so signifying DARAC's action to the two TC chairs and their staff liaison.
- iii. Glenn Hedman, Chair of the RESNA technical committee gave a presentation on the ANSI/RESNA Ed-1 *Standard for Emergency Stair Travel Devices for Individuals with Disabilities*, and discussed his thinking on the best way(s) to

inform the public of its availability and usefulness, including insertion into codes. He also talked about the UIC-OSU study and the consumer opinion piece of that study.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm on Monday, June 9, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan B. Fraser, NFPA Staff Liaison