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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: 4th Fire Suppression and Detection Research Application Symposium,
"Research & Practice: Bridging the Gap"

DATE OF MEETING: February 23, 2000

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 30, 2000

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESME

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Select Orlando Airport, Orlando, Florida

CPSC ATTENDEES: Margaret Neily, ESME *M*

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: Other conference attendees.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: James Beyreis, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), discussed the importance of communications among stakeholders and examples of contributions by the Fire Protection Research Foundation, UL and others to improvements. Mr. Beyreis mentioned upcoming changes in the UL standards development process that will expand input sources beyond industry members. Margaret Neily, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, described the current research planning effort directed toward residential smoke alarms. A full-scale testing program would focus on a method to evaluate alarm performance in real residential fire scenarios and response to common nuisance sources. Current and emerging technologies would be evaluated. Test results could be used to define potential improvements in residential fire warning, upgrade performance standards and installation codes, and update consumer information.

Ralph Transue, Rolf Jensen & Associates, described the development of a performance-based standard for fire safety in the telecommunications industry. This National Fire Protection Association standard is directed toward network protection and is based on protection by hazard rather than by occupancy (traditional approach).

Richard Bukowski, National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), described the development of a standardized fire service interface for fire alarm systems. The goal is to make the information monitored by these commercial systems more available/useful to fire services responding to a fire event. NIST plans to propose a new NFPA standard by November 2000.

James Qualey, Simplex Time Recorder Co., reported on fire test performance comparisons of commercial photoelectric, laser, and multicriteria smoke detectors. The goal is to advance the development of objective criteria for smoke detector selection. Comparisons were made with UL 268 smoldering and flammable liquid fire tests. No time-to-alarm advantages from any type were observed.

William Carey, Underwriters Laboratories Inc., reported on fire tests of suppression sprinklers for warehouse applications. The performance of very large orifice type sprinklers was highlighted.