

*A. C. 11/12/94*

**LOG OF MEETING**

**PLACE** : Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, Canada

**DATE** : November 12, 1994

**SUBJECT** : NFPA 901 Fire Reporting Committee Meeting

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEES** : Dal Howard, Chairman, Los Angeles City F.D.  
Cliff Harvey, Boulder, CO Fire Dept.  
Delvin Bunton, USDA Forest Service  
Frank Florence, Salt Lake City Fire Dept.  
Marion Long, Va Dept of Fire Programs,  
NFIC  
Ralph Sellars, Factory Mutual  
Phil Schaenman, TriData  
John McIntire, LA Co. Fire Dept, NFIC  
Mary Prencipe, Ontario Fire Marshal's Off.  
Carl Peterson, NFPA  
George Klooster, Canadian Ministry of  
Natural Resources  
Mark Chubb, Southern Building Code

**CPSC ATTENDEES** : Linda Smith, EPHA

**SUMMARY** : The primary purpose of this meeting was to resolve NFPA member comments on the Committee-proposed revisions to NFPA 901, Uniform Coding for Fire Protection, and the proposed withdrawal of NFPA 902M, Fire Reporting Field Incident Manual; NFPA 903M, Fire Reporting Property Survey Manual; and NFPA 904, Incident Follow-up Report Guide.

Mark Chubb from the Southern Building Code organization presented a defense of his request that the Committee not withdraw NFPA 902M, NFPA 903 and NFPA 904. His arguments centered around the need of small departments for guidance on constructing a data system. He stated that many rural parts of the country have fire departments that basically have no structured data collection system, or collect only data on numbers of casualties. The Committee voted to reinstate 903M and 904 since they contain information not included in 901. The Committee will work on revising these documents at the next meeting in May 1995. The Committee recognized the desirability of extending data collection to more areas of the country and the need for some guidance to introduce departments to data collection. It felt, however, that the current 902M document contained much information that was now in 901 and was no longer needed. The Committee will work on developing a separate document as an application guide.

The Committee proceeded to address the remaining comments on 901. There was only one comment on the expanded coding for Equipment Involved in Ignition. It supported the new codes. Other extensive comments were made on the codes for sprinklers,

in response to which the Committee made some revisions to the proposals. There were also changes to the codes to specify the involvement of bars, gates, etc in the variable Factors Preventing Escape.

The final proposed documents will be printed and distributed to the NFPA membership before the May 1995 annual meeting in Denver. They will be voted upon by the membership at that meeting and, if accepted, adopted as a new version of NFPA 901.

Non-fire service members then briefly discussed what their organizations were working on in the fire area. The members requested copies of the CPSC 1992 Estimate Fire Loss memo and the final report on the smoke detector fire incident study. They also requested that this information be sent to the National Fire Information Council (NFIC).

Steve Foley, from the NFPA 1500 Committee on Occupational Safety and Health visited the meeting to ask that the 901 Committee increase the amount of data about causes of fire service injury. The 1500 Committee is interested in data that can be used to assess long-term exposures & exposures to infectious diseases.

The meeting continued with an update from Marion Long on the status of the NFIC activity to establish a new fire reporting system using a new software (including a new coding structure) and new hardware. A one-month pilot of the coding structure took place in August. The participants reportedly liked it but no one has analyzed the data yet (maybe in a few months). Dal Howard is on NFIC Board of Directors. The NFIC Futures Committee has been divided into 4 subcommittees: Steering (Marion Long, Chairman), Conversion (including comparison of 2 systems), Marketing, and Special Modules (wildland, casualty, hazmat) Wayne Bennett is no longer working as software contractor. USFA reportedly gave \$20K in end of year funding to any state that applied, to update their software. Expected timetable for the new system:

- Spring '95: Paper pilot of other modules (casualty, etc) and 6 mo. pilot of core system with software
- Spring '96: Full pilot of entire system
- Jan. '97: System ready for distribution for training of departments, then 6-9 mo. to implement
- 1998?: Data collection actually begins under new system  
Old system will still be used by some

There was a discussion by Phil Schaenman on loss estimates. He stated that Canada requires that insurance companies report losses to the government. Canada then uses insurance estimates rather than Fire Service estimates of losses in their calculations. Their studies indicate that insurance estimates generally run about 25 percent higher than fire service estimates.