

MINUTES

CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

San Francisco, California

April 5, 1952

The Committee met to witness tests on aluminum pipe of the W. R. Ames Company conducted by the San Francisco Fire Department at Seventh and Hooper Streets.

Members of the Committee present were:

Harold P. Bowhay	Chief, Division of Fire Services
Loren S. Bush	Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific
Gayle V. Coger	Chief, Fresno Fire Department
George E. Courser	Chief, San Diego Fire Department
Louis F. Ledford	Chief, Palo Alto Fire Department
DeWitt Nelson	State Division of Forestry
M. M. Nelson	(replacing F. J. Jefferson, Assistant Regional Forester)
Basil A. Roberts	Chief, Inglewood Fire Department
Burnett Sanford	Regional Forester, National Park Service
J. Lyle Stevenson	Chief, Stockton Fire Department
Spence D. Turner	Chief Engineer, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Edward P. Walsh	Chief, San Francisco Fire Department

The test consisted of pumping through 1000 feet of 6-inch aluminum pipe laid over uneven terrain with angles at couplings as high as 17° in some cases. Several tests were run ending with two pumpers delivering approximately 1500 gallons per minute through the pipe line with 250 lbs. at the pump. Cases of couplings giving way occurred at times during these tests but, in general, the committee was impressed with the successful operation.

At 2:00 p.m. the committee went into session and, due to the absence of Chief Ball, Chief Spence Turner was elected temporary chairman of the meeting. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without being read, since they had been distributed to committee members.

The Chairman called for the report from the Subcommittee on Pumper Specifications, which was given by Loren S. Bush, chairman of the subcommittee. The subcommittee recommended that the Advisory Committee accept the specifications of the State Fire Marshal, who purchased several pumpers for state installations and expressed satisfaction with them. The subcommittee felt that it would be undesirable for the state to have more than one set of specifications for pumpers and, consequently, recommended those of the State Fire Marshal and recommended that the Federal civil defense authorities use these specifications in purchasing pumpers for

California. It was moved by Chief Ledford, seconded by Chief Coger, that the Subcommittee's report be adopted, and the motion was carried.

At that time Mr. S. V. Gunnison and Mr. Roger Scherman of the W. R. Ames Company came into the meeting and answered questions regarding the tests observed in the morning. Mr. Scherman explained that pipe joint failures were due to galvanizing the springs and this was a problem which could be easily overcome, although they did not recommend the joints be subject to deflection of over 11° in normal use. They explained that if pipe of this nature was required in greater quantities priorities would, of course, be necessary. After discussing costs and weights of the pipe, it seemed that 6-inch would be the most practical size for fire department emergency use.

It was moved by Chief Ledford, seconded by Chief Roberts, and carried, that the Ames Company be extended a vote of thanks by the committee for the instructive tests and research work that had been conducted in the interest of the fire service.

It was moved by Chief Courser, seconded by Chief Stevenson, and carried, that Chief Walsh and his department be extended a vote of thanks for working out the details of the tests and supplying the apparatus and men which made it possible.

It was moved by Chief Roberts, seconded by Mr. Nelson, and carried, that best wishes be extended to Chief Ossie Ball and Chief Bill Meinheit for a speedy recovery.

Mr. Burton Washburn then outlined the provisions of Assembly Bill No. 6, recently passed by the State Legislature, providing for revenue for civil defense. He explained that of the \$12,000,000 appropriated in 1951 there was a balance of \$7,533,000 and that Assembly Bill No. 6, passed in 1952, provided that \$2,098,248 of this balance be made available. From this amount, \$303,500 is appropriated for rescue work and \$489,818 for fire department equipment (pumpers). The remaining \$5,434,752 cannot be spent except on a matching basis and only when approved by additional legislative action. Some of the funds also require local participation for purchase. In this case, however, title remains in the State. It was also pointed out that the State can not spend more than one half and the Federal government must expend one half of the total cost of a proposed expenditure. The Committee commended Mr. Bowhay, Chief of the Division of Fire Services, for the excellent manner in which fire service problems were presented to the Legislature.

Chief Bowhay brought up the problem of turn-out suits on the equipment and requested an expression from the committee on whether or not it felt that these should be provided. After a discussion as to who would man the State equipment, it was moved by Bush, seconded by Chief Ledford, and carried, that it be the recommendation of the committee that turn-out suits should not be provided.

Discussion then turned to the use of the pipe demonstrated at the morning session and, considering the fact that emergency equipment of this type

might be stored for some time before it would be used and it was probable it would get the minimum amount of maintenance, it was moved by Chief Roberts, seconded by Chief Stevens, and carried, that the committee recommend that a request be made for the Federal Civil Defense Administration to supply emergency quick coupling pipe rather than the spare shift of hose for each pumper.

Chief Bowhay next reported on the film library for civil defense and stated that three copies of each of the ten films had been ordered and would be available through the State Fire Marshal's offices in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Chief Turner stated that this would probably be his last meeting with the committee in official capacity, since he was retiring in the near future and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of serving on the committee and stated that this was one of the main regrets he felt in retiring.

The meeting of the committee was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

LOREN S. BUSH
Acting Secretary