

ICC Code Technology Committee

**Balanced Fire Protection
Roof vents study group**

Staff Teleconference Notes

March 7, 2007

Vice Chair Baldassarra initiated the teleconference at approximately 10:00 am Central on March 7, 2007.

Members present: Baldassara (Schirmer, CTC), Beyler (Hughes, alternate to Thornberry), Schulte (Schulte Assoc.), Thornberry (AAMA Smoke Vent Task Group)

Interested parties present: Heilstedt (CTC)

Staff present: Pfeiffer

Craig Beyler introduced two draft documents:

- Rationale for Providing Automatic Smoke and Heat Vents/Draft Curtains in Buildings Protected by Automatic Sprinkler Systems dated March 6, 2007
- Purpose of Smoke and Heat Vents/Draft Curtain Requirements in the International Fire Code dated March 6, 2007

The SG agreed to review and revise the “Rationale” document, with Beyler noting the revisions for issuance as a second draft.

Issues noted:

Overall:

- Rationale seems slanted in support of technology
- Better title may be the anticipated benefits of vents
- What about unsprinklered buildings in the 2500 – 12000 square foot range?
- The document is based on conventional sprinklers, not ESFR, and assumes the vent system is operational and works

Smoke and heat damage:

- What about a time element?
- What about vents w/o draft curtains?

Firefighter safety:

- Roof vent technology goes back to the 1950’s – at the time, fire fighter safety was probably not one of the impetus behind its development
- Committee reason for the denial of F124-06/07 notes fire fighter safety.

Fire department efficiency:

- Vents “may” result in less property damage?
- Is there a documented benefit as determined by the insurance industry?
- Questions of volunteer department vs paid department were raised.

Occupant egress:

- Some of the assumptions questioned.
- Need quantitative assessment

Next call March 23rd at 1:00 Central. Agenda will be to review the second draft.

Call adjourned at 11: am.