American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association
Letter Ballot 07-20-07

1. **Committee and Subcommittee:** Committee 7, Timber Structures; Subcommittee 3, Construction, maintenance and inspection of wood bridges and trestles.

2. **Letter Ballot Number:** 07-20-07

3. **Assignment:** C3-1-14 Review and update Parts 4 and 5 and associated commentary of Chapter 7.

4. **Ballot Item:** 5.2.6 Fire Protection

5. **Rationale:** The intent of this ballot is for minor updates to the language and terminology. Item b – updated language to incorporate “system” as in previous paragraphs. The last sentence was added to direct the inspector’s attention to inspect if the metal used causes the rail to be shunted. Item c – there may be different suppression or protection systems installed on various bridges. It is important to inspect the readiness and functionality of such systems. Item d – barrels and sand are not used anymore. There are water tanks with pipelines and/or other externally pressurized systems that are in use. The bridge inspectors should make general observations, while proper inspections may need to be made by trained professionals.

6. **Vote:** Approve_________  Disapprove_________  Abstain_________

   *Note: If you have a conflict of interest on the topic being considered, you must mark the ballot "Abstain."

7. **Comments:** Comments must be provided when voting to disapprove or abstain. Use additional space on back or attach sheet as necessary.

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8. **Voting Deadline:** Please vote ONLINE. If you are unable to vote online, please e-mail your ballot to Stephanie Swanson at stephanie.swanson@bnsf.com. The deadline to vote is **May 29 2020**.

9. **Signature:** I have read the regulations Governing AREMA Technical Committees and have complied with all its requirements.

    Signed: ___________________________  Name (Please Print): ___________________________
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Date: ______________________  E-mail (if changed):

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Deleted text noted by strikethrough.
Added text shown in red.

Modify article 5.2.6 Fire protection:

5.2.6 FIRE PROTECTION (201421)

a. Note if the ground around and beneath the structure has grass, weeds, drift, or other combustible material.

b. Where sheet metal is used as a fire protection covering for deck members, note the condition of metal and its fastenings system. Observe for the possibility of the sheet metal shunting the track and causing service interruptions.

c. Note if any other methods of fire protection have been used, such as fire retardant coatings, or fire walls, or other fire suppression or protection systems. Record the condition and functionality of protective systems.

d. Where water barrels-tanks are provided, note the number of tanks, condition of tanks, pipelines, couplers, and valves. If filled, and if buckets for bailing are on hand. If sand is used, note whether bins are full and in condition to keep the sand dry. Some systems may require certified professionals to perform inspections.

e. Note if timber, particularly top surfaces of ties and stringers in open deck bridges, is free of combustible debris, frayed fiber, punk wood, or excessive checking.