

# Meeting Minutes

## Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee

(Section 21 Committee)

March 25, 2022

Meeting held on Zoom  
Commencing at 8:30 am

### Present:

Rob Grimwood	O AFC - Committee Co-Chair
Dan Worrall	OPFFA - Committee Co-Chair
Aaron Burridge	O AFC
Tim Sparks	OPFFA
Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Randy Narine	Volunteer firefighter
Doug Kellam	Volunteer firefighter
Jeff Kirk	O AFC (guest)
Harry Baranik	O AFC (guest)
Juanita Martin	MLTSD
John Snider	Office of the Fire Marshal – Ontario Fire College (observer)
Tanya Morose	PSHSA (Facilitator)
Raman Banwait	PSHSA (Minutes)

### Regrets

Victor Dillabaugh OPFFA

### Greetings

R. Grimwood welcomed committee members and introduced guests. O AFC members have been submitted to the Minister of Labour Training and Skills Development for approval and are attending today as guests. D. Worrall reports that the one OPFFA vacancy is in the process of being filled.

### Review of Minutes from December 3, 2021 Meeting

The draft minutes from December 3, 2021 meeting were approved with no changes

- **Action Item: R. Banwait finalize minutes and send to O AFC for posting.**

### Cyclical Review - Guidance Notes 6-14 to 6-20

#### Guidance Note 6-14 Safe Roof Operation

- Add to Actions for employer,
  - Provide appropriate equipment
  - Provide and maintain equipment in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines, change. Change from employer “should” to “must”
  - employer shall follow OFMEM directive 2022-002 regarding the use of information on light-weight construction to inform fire suppression pre-planning activities
- Alter first point Safety Consideration of Roof Operation to “Conducting initial and ongoing risk assessment that determines the type of roof construction, roof load hazards

(such as solar panels, HVAC systems, snow, antennae) the location of the fire and length of time that the structure has been burning.”

- Vertical ventilation requirements to be added to the first point under safety consideration for roof operations
- Add to Related,
  - Guidance Note 6-22 Ventilation Saws
  - NFPA 1700 Firefighting tactics
  - NFPA 1300 Community risk assessment and references
- **ACTION: R. Banwait add Guidance Note 6-22 Ventilation Saws to June 2022 agenda.**

#### Guidance Note 6-15 Medication and Drug Exposure

- Under Employers actions, include “consider provision of and training on naloxone for treatment of firefighter.”
- Add to Related,
  - Guidance Note 2-7 Reporting exposures to biological, chemical and physical agents
  - Guidance Note 4-9 Respiratory Protection Program
  - Guidance Note 4-14 Infection prevention and exposure control practices

#### Guidance Note 6-16 Machinery/Electrical Lockout during Emergency Response

- The committee discussed a situation where no one on the team had knowledge of lockout training and lockout was not done correctly on a machine in a rescue situation. The only person with knowledge of how to lock out the machine was the individual that firefighters were rescuing.
- Under Lockout Consideration, add, “Have a second person to confirm lockout before proceeding (system check).”

#### Guidance Note 6-17 Clandestine Drug Labs

- Under Safe Consideration, add, “consider intrinsically safe equipment where possible”

#### Guidance Note 6-18 Unprotected Lightweight Building Construction

- Under Actions for employers, add “employer shall follow OFMEM directive 2022-002 regarding the use of information on light weight construction to inform fire suppression pre-planning activities”
- Defer to June 2022 meeting for discussion regarding OFMEM directive on safety considerations for lightweight construction and Building Code.

#### Guidance Note 6-19 Hybrid/Electric and Electrical Vehicle Safety

- Defer to June 2022 meeting for discussion. Possible topic at OPFFA Conference in April 2022. D. Worrall and R. Narine will share their experiences at the June 2022 meeting.

#### Guidance Note 6-20 Electrical Hazards in Rescue and the Fire Situations

- Defer to June 2022 meeting for discussion
- **ACTION: D. Kellam and T. Morose to share Guidance Note 6-20 with their ESA contacts and bring feedback to June 2022 meeting.**

#### **4-1 Bunker Gear and PPE GN Discussion**

- Discussion deferred until June 2022 meeting.

## Structural Collapse Guidance Note

- Guidance Note is moving through approvals process at MLTSD.

## Medical Surveillance Guidance Note Draft

- Defer to June 2022 meeting.
- **Action Item: T. Morose to provide re-introduction to CRE-OD contact for D. Worrall**

## 7-5 Live Fire Training Consideration for Acquired Structures

- The committee discussed an example of modifying an acquired structure for training purposes where a firefighter was injured.
- The committee discussed revising Guidance Note 7-5 Live Fire Training Consideration for Acquired Structures, to include considerations for live fire and non-fire related considerations (such as biohazards, asbestos, structural integrity etc.).
- **Action: H. Baranik and T. Sparks to update and share draft at June 2022 meeting.**
- **Action: J. Martin send H. Baranik and T. Sparks current version of Guidance Note 7-5.**

## Guidance Note Comments Review

Five guidance notes were sent out for comments. Feedback was received on four guidance notes.

### GN 6-3 Water or Ice Related Emergencies

- Add to Actions for Employers, Employer must,
  - “provide personal protective equipment and clothing and devices for the appropriate protection of the firefighter” and
  - “Maintain equipment in good condition in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendation and appropriate standards.”
- Under Consideration for Safety, capitalize “an Incident Safety Officer.”
- Under Consideration for Pre-planning, consider cross-training with allied agencies.

### GN 6-4 Rope Rescue

- Add to Actions for Employers, Employer must,
  - “provide personal protective equipment and clothing and devices for the appropriate protection of the firefighter” and
  - “Maintain equipment in good condition in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendation and appropriate standards.”
  - Under Consideration for Safety, capitalize “an Incident Safety Officer.”
- Under Consideration for Pre-planning, consider cross-training with allied agencies.

### GN 6-5 Confined Space Rescue

- Add to Actions for Employers, Employer must,
  - “provide personal protective equipment and clothing and devices for the appropriate protection of the firefighter” and
  - “Maintain equipment in good condition in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendation and appropriate standards.”
  - Under Consideration for Safety, capitalize “an Incident Safety Officer.”
- Under Consideration for Pre-planning add “consider cross-training with allied agencies.”

### GN 6-28 Rescue from a collapsed trench

- Add to Actions for Employers, Employer must,
  - “provide personal protective equipment and clothing and devices for the appropriate protection of the firefighter” and
  - “Maintain equipment in good condition in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendation and appropriate standards.”
  - Under Consideration for Safety, capitalize “an Incident Safety Officer.”
- Under Consideration for Pre-planning, “consider cross-training with allied agencies”.
- Under Consideration for Safety, amend language to “A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) equipped, trained and outfitted with appropriate PPE to affect the rescue”

#### Draft Guidance Note Workplace Violence

- Under concerns, add, “injuries can be mental and/or physical in nature.”

**ACTION: R. Grimwood and D. Worrall will follow up with OAFC and OPFFA members who provided comments on all Guidance Notes that were out for comments.**

#### **Regulation Working Group**

- Update deferred to June 2022 meeting.

#### **Fire Fighter Cancer Claims, WSIB Data and Analytics**

- Updated WSIB data regarding cost and type of cancer claims reviewed. The Committee reviewed statistical breakdown provided by WSIB such as type of cancer most prevalent, occurrence rate, age of onset etc. Skin cancer was noted as the most frequent presumptive cancer diagnosis.
- The committee discussed the possibility of underreporting, how to use this data to support the sector and advancing Firefighter health and safety prevention activities.
- J. Martin has shared information with MLTSD occupational disease team.
- **ACTION: T. Morose to coordinate with the working group to develop resources to meet the needs of Fire sector stakeholders. Volunteers for the working group include J. Snider, R. Narine, D. Worrall, C. Hoffman, D. Kellam and R. Grimwood.**

#### **Minister Response to Letters**

A response to the PTSD Prevention Plans, Coroner Investigation for Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths and Safety while working on Roadways letters was received from Minister McNaughton in March 2022.

- PTSD Prevention Plans – Referred to MLTSD staff
- Firefighter line of duty – Referred to the Solicitor General
- Safety while working on or near roadways – Referred to the Minister of Transportation

#### **PFAS Discussion**

- No current updates to discuss. J. Martin reminded the committee that occupational exposure limits are covered in the Regulation for Control of Biological and Chemical Agents (O. Reg 833). PFAS is not included in the current occupational exposure limit tables.
- **ACTION: J. Martin to invite MLTSD Policy Analyst to June 2022 meeting.**

#### **Use of Sea Can for Live Fire Training**

- A Sea Can is structural on its own. Modifications such as doors, windows, etc. modify structural integrity. Consideration should be given to protective tiles for live fire to protect the Sea Can structure.

- OFMEM is awaiting guidance from the Building Department. An OFM Directive is anticipated on the use of Sea Cans for Live Fire training in the future.
- R. Grimwood suggested there is a need to address the safety considerations for the use of Sea Cans regarding training.
- Reminder to refer to NFPA 1402 Facilities for Fire Training and Associated Props

### **PSHSA Update**

- T. Morose shared PSHSA update which included
  - Psychological Harm Root Cause Analysis Project
  - Proposed legislation amendments
  - Public health measures and ROA updates
  - Occupational Stress Injury Resiliency (OSIR) tool
  - 2022-23 MLTSD initiatives including Struck by, Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Hazards (Spring 2022) which may impact Fire Services.
  - IPAC Canada video environment cleaning disinfection of Emergency vehicles
  - IWH PTSI in First Responders global environmental scan
- **ACTION: R. Banwait email PSHSA Update to all committee members.**

### **New Business**

#### Certification regulation consultation and process update

- Ontario Firefighter certification process is posed on the Regulatory Registry and broad consultation has taken place with many stakeholder groups. J. Snider reported that good feedback has been received. The O AFC supports the proposed certification.

#### HTA exemption for appropriate license during emergency

- The Highway Traffic Act (HTA) includes an exemption for driving vehicles without a proper license in an emergency. It is the committee's understanding that this exemption is intended for uncommon events such as a major natural disaster, and not to cover regular operation of fire apparatus without a DZ license. The committee expressed their concern regarding how this section of the HTA is being applied to regular operations in Ontario's Fire Services.
- H. Baranik informed the committee that this was proposed originally for police and primarily exception started during SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).
- **ACTION: R. Grimwood will draft a letter on behalf of the Section 21 committee to the Minister of Labour. Individual Associations may correspond directly with the Ministry of Transportation.**
- **ACTION: R. Banwait add discussion of Guidance Note 6-7 Driving skills for emergency apparatus response and licensing, to June 2022 agenda**

#### Interest in Centre for Forensic Sciences Tour when in person meetings resume

- The Committee has continued interest in the Centre for Forensic Sciences Tour.
- Possibly set up Forensic Sciences tour for September 2022.

#### Committee retirement recognition

- J. Martin informs the committee that recognition of contributions to Section 21 Committees is in place and is in the form of a letter from the Minister.
- Individuals who have left the Fire S21 committee recently due to retirement include John M., Mike V. Ellard B. and Jeri Ottley have not received a service recognition award from their Section 21 committee peers.

- The committee discussed efforts to recognize past members with something more than just a letter.

#### Volunteer Firefighter Representation on the Committee

- Under Terms of Reference, it is vague on recruitment of volunteer fire fighter representatives. The Minister of Labour currently approves nominations for committee membership. The committee discussed how to seek nominations from interested volunteer firefighters with existing communication networks in the Fire Services Sector.
- Further discussion at June 2022 meeting.

#### Hydrocarbon Suppression

- M. Pankhurst indicated a need for hydrocarbon suppression training in Ontario and shared Emergency Response Assistance Canada (ERAC), a not-for-profit emergency preparedness and response organization that provides services across Canada for clean-up from accidents involving vehicles transporting propane and other dangerous goods. Part of their business is also training. Subsidized or free resources are available for first responders.
- **ACTION: R. Banwait send a summary from M. Pankhurst to committee members for their records.**

#### Life of Carbon Fiber SCBA Cylinders

- M. Pankhurst shared research on the life of carbon fibre tanks. They can be extended beyond 15 years with an inspection that can be costly. There will likely not be certification of tanks beyond 30 years until Department of Transportation and Transport Canada regulations change.
- **ACTION: R. Banwait send a summary from M. Pankhurst to committee members for their records.**

#### Section 21 Committee Guidance Notes and pre-service Firefighter Education

- D. Worrall asked about the possibility of Section 21 Guidance Notes applying to pre-service Firefighter education. The committee was reminded their role is to advise on workplace issues impacting workers. College programs are under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.
- **ACTION: T. Morose and J. Snider connect on OFC MOU and MCU approval of programs and curriculum changes.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

#### **2022 Meeting Dates:**

- June 9 and 10, 2022
- September 15 and 16, 2022
- December 1 and 2, 2022