

Meeting Minutes

Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee (Section 21 Committee)

Thursday September 15 – 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday September 16 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting Held In-Person at Centre for Forensic Sciences, 25 Morton Schulman Ave

Present:

Rob Grimwood	O AFC - Committee Co-Chair
Dan Worrall	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Aaron Burridge	O AFC
Jeff Kirk	O AFC
Harry Baranik	O AFC
Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Doug Kellam	Volunteer Firefighter
Tim Sparks	OPFFA
John Plater	OPFFA
Adam Neal	OPFFA
John Snider	Office of the Fire Marshal – Ontario Fire College (observer)
Juanita Martin	MLITSD
Tanya Morose	PSHSA (Facilitator)
Kayla Thomson	PSHSA (Minutes)

Regrets:

Randy Narine Volunteer firefighter

Guests:

Dr. Joel Moody Chief Prevention Officer
Monte McNaughton Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development

Thursday September 15 – 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Greetings

D. Worrall welcomed the committee and thanked Dr. Moody for joining us today. He did a round table of introduction before moving Dr. Moody's presentation to the start.

Dr. Joel Moody, Chief Prevention Officer – Fireside Chat

D. Worrall and R. Grimwood presented to Dr. Moody a summary of hazards facing firefighters such as mental health, investigating firefighter line of duty deaths, third party training and reducing occupational cancer. The following points were brought up during the presentation:

- A need for more emphasis on guidance notes.
- A need to update O. Reg. 714/94 to include some of the parts of guidance notes which are currently not enforceable. We can look to other leading provinces, such as Manitoba.
- Using medical surveillance, we would like to be able to follow a firefighter throughout their career with how they start and end health-wise. How can we help them? Idea: Test throughout their career to catch things early, prevent serious illness or injury.

- We need guidance with respect to conducting an assessment and setting up a control program including information such as types of controls, record keeping and PPE. Firefighters don't receive medical surveillance even though they are exposed to 10/11 designated substances in the OHSA.
- The ask: Develop a medical surveillance and designated substance program. Blood testing, early colonoscopy through early testing and Dr. prescribed medical surveillance.
- [“After thoroughly reviewing the available scientific literature, the Working Group classified occupational exposure as a firefighter as carcinogenic to humans \(Group 1\), on the basis of sufficient evidence for cancer in humans.” - IARC](#)
 - Dr. Moody – What has been discussed is being funded. Testing is being done, the puzzle is being put together. Most family doctors forget to take the history (i.e. what's your job). “What and how do we change the system?” is being worked on. A research group will be established (OCRC). No answers yet, however.
- Deaths in mining and police custody automatically trigger a coroner's inquest but when a firefighter dies, it's up to the Regional Coroner to determine if an inquest is warranted. It should always be triggered so we can apply lessons learned to prevent future occurrences.
- High risk training providers (3rd parties) can be selected without recommendation from ministry or WSIB.
- Dr. Moody – We have an opportunity for change. Education is key. How do we continue to have these conversations? We can make a difference. Cancer has cost both societal and monetary, but what about the individual? Mental health has been clearly identified as something that needs to be discussed. There may be things we can't do quite yet but Dr. Moody ensures that he doesn't like the word no. End of the day, outcomes are to help our firefighters. Getting them home healthy and whole.

The committee asked Dr. Moody questions regarding how we would know if mental health & PTSD prevention programs or resources are even working, as there isn't much in terms of research or follow up.

- Dr. Moody – Working with the ministry on this. If we fund it, is it working? Good spend? Did it make the impact? More to come.

Minister McNaughton

Greetings, introduction of the committee and summary of our discussion with Dr. Moody from this morning. Minister stated he has made it a priority to visit the committee more often and we have strong support with the MLITSD as they look for opportunities for improvement in prevention. The committee ended the conversation by having a photo taken with the Minister and Dr. Moody.

Review of minutes from June 2022 meeting

The minutes from the June 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Fire Marshal Jon Pegg

Sends his regrets of not being able to attend

Cyclical Review – Guidance Notes

6-19 Hybrid/electric and electrical vehicle safety

- Amendments proposed by the committee regarding:
 - Multiple classes of fire: committee discussed need for specific examples of types of classes
 - The suggestion of changing the title to “Alternative fuel vehicle safety” wasn't approved by the committee; this guidance note only addresses concerns with

electrical vehicles. Committee will determine need for an additional guidance note on alternative fuel vehicles in the future.

- **ACTION:** J. Martin make final edits based on the Committee’s discussion and T. Morose will send guidance note out for comment
- Two OAFB members attended electrical vehicle training at GM and can be engaged for comment and input.
- Committee discussed a resource for alternative fuel vehicles (in a similar style to the ERG) to support first responders when responding to calls involving non-gasoline powered vehicles. Would also support tow truck industry. Committee members noted that the ERG is a federal resource.
 - **ACTION:** R. Grimwood – Connect with CAFB on this topic for input and discussion.
 - **ACTION:** T. Morose – Share with police and paramedic Section 21 committees.

6-20 Electrical hazards in rescue and fire situations

- Committee discussed amendments to the guidance note including:
 - Aligning the language with NFPA.
 - “When responding to emergencies” grammatical change.
 - Concerns and hazards: add “Places with illegal wiring”
 - Related item 6-17. Electrical Safety Handbook for First Responders will be updated in 2023, T. Morose will determine if links will change when updated manual is published.

6-21 Aircraft fire fighting hazards

- Amendments proposed by the committee regarding:
 - Change to “vapours are heavier than air”.
- **ACTION:** M. Pankhurst and T. Morose connect with their GTAA contacts to seek input on this guidance note.
- Transport Canada reference be good for a resource.
- Defer cyclical review of this guidance note to December 2022 meeting.

6-26 Structural fire fighting — fire streams and ventilation

- Amendments proposed by the committee regarding:
 - Add reference to NFPA 1700 tactical document.
 - Title in need of an update.
- **ACTION:** R. Grimwood, A. Burrige and M. Pankhurst to review and propose edits to this guidance note
- **ACTION:** T. Morose circulate revised draft to committee in preparation for December 2022 meeting.

6-27 Fires in industrial dust collectors, hoppers and bins

- No changes to this guidance note.

6-29 Prevention of falls from fire apparatus

- Amendments proposed by the committee:
 - Including examples of engineered design features, such as pop-up guard rails.
 - Storing infrequently used, and heavy items in locations that can be reached from the ground.
 - Use of appropriate PPE such as a helmet.

6-30 Pesticide storage fires

- Amendments proposed by the committee:
 - Addition of pre-planning. Employer should conduct a site visit to develop a pre-plan prior to a situation arising that requires suppression response at a location storing pesticides.

6-47 Fire Fighting Hazards During Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Tank Fires

- Comments received from consultation on draft guidance note were reviewed by the committee.
 - Change title to “and/or”.
 - Grammatical edits made to improve clarity of guidance note.
 - **ACTION:** D. Worrall connect with OPPFFA member who submitted feedback and share committee’s response.

4-1 PPE Use of bunker gear at public events and non-suppression activities

- Committee discussed what is being worn under bunker gear, wearing bunker gear only when it is required for operational tasks and that synthetic fibre clothing can melt onto skin in exposure to extreme heat. Natural fibre, such as 100% cotton does not pose the same risks as some synthetic fibres.
- It was noted that PFAS free bunker gear is not yet available on the market.
- **ACTION:** D. Worrall will review and propose edits to this Guidance note for the December 2022 Meeting
- **ACTION:** T. Morose distribute draft guidance note with edits to committee.

Traffic GN updates with Book 7 update

- T. Morose and R. Grimwood reviewed updated MTO Book 7 (2022) and existing guidance note. Proposed amendments were primarily clerical in nature to align language with Book 7 and Amendments discussed by the committee include:
 - Actions for employers: add language on
 - Unified Command (A.1.4) to align with book 7 language
 - Familiar with Appendix A and section 3 Fundamental Principles of Work Zone Design (reference)
 - Training: add information on
 - traffic control plans
 - identification of hazards and scene Evaluation from A.2 Guidelines for First on Scene
 - PPE: add reference to A.3.1 high visibility safety apparel, which has a chart on which type of high visibility for different scenarios
- **ACTION:** J. Martin update guidance note and send for posting to Ontario.ca

PFAS draft GN

- The committee reviewed and discussed the first draft of the PFAS guidance note. Discussion included:
 - Change turnout gear to bunker gear.
 - Add: Avoid working in the foam if you can. If you can’t then wear PPE.
 - Note: “When working in finished foam during suppression activities, wear appropriate PPE, avoid skin contact when handling foam concentrate”
 - Move size-up point to 2nd
 - Add to the “do not do” section to: In consultation with the JHSC, limit bunker use for, public education events, motor vehicle collisions, wildland fires, green fires, etc. (outlined in GN)

- J. Martin review regulation 833 to determine if this is an appropriate reference.
- **ACTION:** J. Martin finalize draft GN. T. Morose send out for comment.

Medical Surveillance draft GN

- MLITSD continues to work with experts on proposed content for this guidance note and will bring it back to the committee in March 2023.
- **ACTION:** March 2023 discussion

Regulation Working Group

- Rob provided overview of the work of the Regulation working group. There is no update at this time.
- **ACTION:** R. Grimwood, D. Worrall, A. Burrige and D. Kellam, review working group documentation and report back to committee in December 2022.

Cancer Claim Costs

- T. Morose and D. Worrall met with WSIB data analysts and stakeholder relations to discuss this committee's data request. No update on data at this time, move to December 2022 agenda.

Cancer Communication Working Group

- Two communications plans were presented to the committee for discussion and consideration in-kind communication campaign from PSHSA (toolkits, graphics, copy for social and email, etc.) or paid campaign (digital displays, magazine ads, sponsored content, tradeshow booths, etc.)
- Committee agreed on the in-kind communication plan
- Consider annual stakeholder events for timing of campaign. For example: LUMCO, FNOM, ROMA (Jan 2023), AMO (Aug 2023), OAFCLabour Relations conference (Jan 2023), Hicks Morley Conference (September 2023), OMHRA (September 2023), ESSC, Eastern Ontario Warden Caucus, Regional CAO group meetings, AMCTO
- **ACTION:** T. Morose, R. Grimwood, C. Hoffman, M. Pankhurst meet with PSHSA communications to explore messaging prior to December 2022 meeting. .

MLITSD Data Annual Update

- J. Martin updated the committee on views of guidance notes and the cancer prevention checklist on Ontario.ca. Committee discussed they would like to see what GN's get referenced by inspectors.
- **ACTION:** J. Martin will include this information in the next annual report.

HTA and DZ license

- R. Grimwood on behalf of OAFCLabour Relations conference has drafted a letter to the Minister of Transportation regarding this issue which has been reviewed by the OAFCLabour Relations conference. Committee discussed existing barriers to volunteer firefighters getting DZ licenses and being mindful of graduated change to interpretation of the Driver's License Regulation s 22(a.1) to maintain operations in volunteer fire departments.
- Committee discussed the need for drive test process to be fixed and the conflicting answers from different parties regarding firefighters driving ambulances.

Health and Safety in pre-service Firefighter education

- T. Morose and J. Snider led discussion on options to embed consistent health and safety content in pre-service firefighter education? Suggestion: eLearning that's available to all firefighters. Different language is needed in the MOU's.
- J. Snider to move forward with support of this committee in his role as Assistant Deputy Fire Marshall

Meeting adjourned.

Friday September 16 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Greetings

Committee welcomed one another. The day would begin with a review of the remaining agenda items followed by a tour of the Centre for Forensic Sciences.

PFAS discussion

- D. Worrall has received multiple calls about PFAS. The committee agreed a one pager using plain language on what the chemical is would be welcome in the fire services.
- **ACTIONS: In preparation for December 2022 meeting:**
 - Dan, Tim & Tanya to develop a quick reference/fact sheet and will reach out to Neil from IAFF. Present draft to the committee in December
 - K. Thomson provide graphic design support.
 - H. Baranik to review infographic created by K. Thomson.

PSHSA update

- T. Morose provided the PSHSA update:
 - A new psychological health and safety guide is available at <LINK>
 - PSHSA received a memo from Hydro One about electrical safety for EMS workers. Energized equipment can be fatal. Check to make sure it's de-energized before responding. The committee members were asked to share widely with their networks.
 - Update to Electrical Safety for Emergency Responders Handbook is underway with 2023 release of new version.
 - M. Pankhurst and D. Worrall volunteered to contribute to the update committee.
 - **ACTION:** If you would like to be a reviewer, please let Tanya or Dan know. Looking for someone from Fire Services S21 to sit on the committee. Committee suggested M. Pankhurst and D. Worrall as the representatives.
 - MLITSD Compliance Initiatives summary was provided <insert link here>

New business

Joint meeting with Paramedic and Police Section 21 meeting discussion topics (2023)

- 2 days: Day 1 – Collab meeting. Day 2 – Individual S21s. Common topics to discuss:
 1. Incident command, incident management and unified command
 2. Traffic safety, protection and control
 3. Mental Health PTSD prevention
 4. Incident control and designated officer programs
 5. Respiratory protection
 6. Radio communications and radio communication failures

7. Working together at technical rescue (water, ice, trench, rope and confined spaces) incidents
 8. Working together at hazardous materials incidents
 9. Working together at active attacker and hostile event response incidents
- **ACTION:** J. Martin to work with MLITSD colleagues who facilitate the Police and EMS committees to confirm the proposed joint meeting date of March 2, 2023. Once confirmed, J. Martin to invite Minister and Chief Prevention Officer

International Agency for Research on Cancer report

- Summary of findings on occupational cancer in firefighters.

“After thoroughly reviewing the available scientific literature, the Working Group classified occupational exposure as a firefighter as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), on the basis of sufficient evidence for cancer in humans.”

- **ACTION:** J. Martin, invite Dr. Demers, OCRC and Chief Prevention Officer Dr. Moody to the December meeting.

December 2022 meeting

- F. Macpate will attend to represent MLITSD in J. Martin’s place.

OAFC Health and Safety Seminar

- November 22, Niagara Falls. There will be a S21 update and panel discussion. R. Grimwood will share details with the committee as they become available.

Round table

- PFAS
 - Committee members expressed interest in receiving any information available regarding PFAS as it becomes available between meetings.

Future meetings

Locations:

- Committee discussed the idea of having meetings outside of Toronto based on location of current committee members (e.g. London to decrease travel time and expense).
- **ACTION:** J. Martin to inquire with MLITSD on alternate meeting locations.

2022 meeting dates:

December 1 and 2, 2022

2023 meeting dates:

March 2 and 3

June 8 and 9

September 21 and 22

November 30 and December 1

Meeting adjourned.

Centre for Forensic Sciences Tour