

# Meeting Minutes

## Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee (Section 21 Committee)

Thursday June 9 – 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Friday June 10 – 08:30 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting held In-Person at Centre for Health & Safety Innovation, 5110 Creekbank Road,  
Mississauga

### Present:

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

### Regrets

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Cathy Hoffman | AMO                   |
| Doug Kellam   | Volunteer Firefighter |

### Guest Presenters:

|                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cristina St. Pierre | MLTSD Provincial Hygienist (guest) |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|

### Greetings

R. Grimwood welcomed committee members and did roundtable introductions.

### Review of Minutes from March 25, 2022, Meeting

The minutes from March 25, 2022 meeting were approved as submitted. The committee discussed posting meeting minutes and to send guidance notes out for comments to OAFTO and OPFFA for posting on their websites in addition to the O AFC website.

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

### Cyclical Review – Guidance Notes 6-19 to 6-25

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

- The committee deferred discussion to next meeting in September 2022. D. Worrall is currently working with UL expert and will update the committee at the next meeting.

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

- T. Morose received feedback from ESA contact, no changes suggested.
- Amendments proposed by committee regarding:
  - Vehicle collisions involving an electric/hybrid vehicle
  - Energy storage facilities adjacent to power generating facilities
  - Vehicle charging stations
  - Banks of batteries in homes for charging
  - [6-19 Hybrid/electric and electrical vehicle safety | Section 6: Procedures | ontario.ca](#)

#### Guidance Note 6-21 Aircraft fire fighting hazards

- The committee deferred discussion to the September 2022 meeting. There may be feedback from contacts at Pearson Airport and from Jeff Kirk (experience as an ARFF firefighter).

#### Guidance Note 6-22 Ventilation saws

- Amendments proposed by committee regarding:
  - Change guidance note content and title to include all powered saws
  - Ensuring the saw is designed for the task to be completed and the material to be cut
  - Ensuring saws and blades are used as per the manufacturer's recommendations
  - Including use of hearing protection and chaps as appropriate

#### GN 6-23 Safety during salvage and overhaul

- Amendments proposed by committee regarding:
  - Reference to the Cancer Prevention Checklist
  - Adding absorption as a route of entry
  - Maintaining respiratory protection during salvage and overhaul

#### GN 6-24 Building collapse during fire situations

- Amendments proposed by committee regarding:
  - Various potential loads which may affect building integrity

#### GN 6-25 Safety considerations for fire department tankers

- No changes or updates discussed.

#### **GN 4-1 Firefighters protective equipment**

- The committee deferred discussion to September meeting. D. Worrall and R. Grimwood working with regulation working group and will update committee in the next meeting.

#### **GN 6-7 Driving skills for emergency apparatus response and licensing**

- Committee proposed adding wording regarding drivers holding the appropriate class of license for the vehicle they're driving.

#### **GN 6-18 Unprotected Lightweight Building Construction**

- Committee proposed adding references to:
  - OFMEM Directive 2022-001
  - O. Reg 317/18 Community Risk Assessments
  - Building Code amendments regarding lightweight construction

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

- T. Sparks and H. Baranik provided an overview of the updates to Guidance Note 7-5 Live Fire Training Consideration for Acquired Structures
- The Committee decided that sea cans are not an acquired structure and need to be engineered to be in line with building code and NFPA.
- Committee proposed changes to the GN regarding:
  - The impact of ventilation and weather conditions on fire spread
  - Consultation with a building inspector or engineer regarding the training evolutions to be conducted to ensure the structural integrity of the building
  - Identifying various hazards in and around the structure before use

### **Medical Surveillance Guidance Note Draft**

- The committee discussed a draft of a new Medical Surveillance Guidance Note to address both short- and long-term health effects for firefighters in Ontario.
- Since firefighters are at a higher risk of developing chronic diseases like cancer, the employer should encourage them to go their doctor to develop a baseline for medical monitoring.
- J. Martin provided an overview of the Fire Section 21 Guidance Note development process.
- Discussion to update draft guidance note and align with language for Designated Substance medical monitoring.
- Add to Applicable standards,
  - Cancer prevention checklist
- **ACTION: J. Martin will revise the drafted guidance note and present during September 2022 meeting for the committee's feedback**

### **Regulation Working Group (Rob)**

- Deferred discussion to September 2022 meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

## **Greetings**

D. Worrall welcomed committee members on Friday June 10, and introduced Cristina St. Pierre to the committee.

## **PFAS Discussion**

- The committee discussed PFAS with C. St. Pierre, MLTSD Provincial Hygienist.
- V. Dillabaugh highlighted that PFAS are being used in the manufacturing of firefighter bunker gear. The bunker gear is worn frequently by firefighters; potentially increasing bodily absorption rate.
- Committee discussed the need for bunker gear materials and firefighting foam that do not contain PFAS. The committee is currently seeking direction and guidance to limit the exposure to PFAS as preliminary research studies suggest prolonged exposure to PFAS may lead to different types of cancers.
- R. Grimwood shared a letter received from a bunker gear supplier that uses PFAS in their production. The supplier assured that the testing of their gear does not contain dangerous levels of PFAS.
- V. Dillabaugh explained that raising awareness of PFAS exposure through Firefighting training and incorporating warning labelling on the inside of bunker gear would help limit exposure to PFAS.
- The Committee proposed possible amendment to Guidance Note 4-1 noting bunker gear should only be worn when necessary. Additionally, the committee discussed drafting a PFAS Awareness Guidance Note along with a letter to the Minister of Labour regarding the presence of PFAS in firefighting foam.
- **ACTION: T. Sparks, A. Burrige, V. Dillabaugh, C. Hoffman draft PFAS Awareness Guidance Note for September meeting.**

## **Cancer Claim Cost Communication Working Group**

- T. Morose presented the work from the cancer communication working group. The group has identified two target audiences and the committee discussed communication platforms for campaign marketing.
- Next steps: T. Morose will work with PSHSA Marketing and Communications Manager on campaign proposal for September 2022 meeting.
- **ACTION. T. Morose confirm if MLTSD funding is available for campaign.**

## **WSIB data on cancer claim costs**

- D. Worrall highlighted the total cancer cost claims are perceived to be low in WSIB data reported. The committee expressed an interest to better understand the true cost of cancer claims in Ontario for firefighters.
- The Committee brainstormed information needs to inform a future data request of the WSIB regarding cancer claims.
- **ACTION: D. Worrall, R. Grimwood, and T. Morose meet with WSIB regarding data request to meet committee's information needs.**

## **HTA exception for appropriate license during emergency**

- Deferred discussion to September 2022 meeting.

## **Firefighter Education**

- Deferred discussion to September 2022 meeting.

## Life of Carbon Fiber SCBA Cylinder Summary follow-up

- M. Pankhurst received feedback from Transport Canada and found an exemption for 15 years exists which can increase the life span of carbon fiber SCBA cylinders.
- Committee is waiting for more information and will discuss in September 2022 meeting.

## PSHSA Update

- T. Morose highlighted various tools and courses available for the committee to use.
  - The JHSC Efficiency tool is a self-assessment tool to continuously improve the organization's JHSC standing and ensure their JHSC measures up to a "gold standard."(English: [JHSC Assessment Tool \(creod.on.ca\)](https://creod.on.ca) French: [JHSC Assessment Tool \(creod.on.ca\)](https://creod.on.ca))
  - Psychological health and safety program is designed to provide additional tools and resources to support and maintain psychological health and well-being in the workplace ([Public Services Health and Safety Association | Psychological Health and Safety Program Summary \(pshsa.ca\)](https://pshsa.ca)).
  - Psychological Health and Safety Program checklist can used to conduct initial gap analysis or needs assessment to better understand an organization's needs and overall support future program planning if need be ([Psychological Health and Safety Program Checklist - Psychological Health and Safety Program \(PHSP\) \(pshsa.ca\)](https://pshsa.ca)).
  - Resiliency building resources and training,
    - Resilient Me - a self-guided microlearning program to strengthen resiliency.
    - R2 for Leaders, Building Resilient Organizations Course – to better understand qualities for resilience and how to build a resilient organization.
    - Mental Health Stay at Work & Return to work for First Responders – designed to teach how support healthy, safe and successful stay at work and return to work for first responders.
    - [Public Services Health and Safety Association | Resilience \(pshsa.ca\)](https://pshsa.ca)
  - Ontario Traffic Manual, Book 7 has been updated ([Ontario Ministry of Transportation Library \(gov.on.ca\)](https://gov.on.ca)).
- Committee discussed topics for future meetings. Solicitor General Mental Health Secretariat was identified as a source to update the committee on Mental Health activities supporting first responders
- **ACTION: T. Morose invite Solicitor General Mental Health Secretariat to next meeting**

## New Business

### Hydrocarbon suppression

- M. Pankhurst highlights the concern of LP420 near building structures in various rural areas of Ontario resulting in increased injury rates in Firefighters.
- Committee reviewed the draft guidance note for Liquefied Petroleum gas (LPG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) safety and proposed comments/edits accordingly.
- **ACTION: J. Martin finalize guidance note and send to T. Morose to post for comments prior to September 2022 meeting.**

### **New discussion:**

- R. Grimwood invited committee to the OAFC Health and Safety Seminar Panel discussion to take place in Niagara Falls on November 22, 2022.

### **Gifts for Past members**

- R. Grimwood shared the plaque that the committee will present to former committee members to recognize their contributions

### **Centre of Forensic Sciences Tour**

- J. Martin is waiting to receive confirmation for Friday, September 16, 2022, tour at The Center of Forensic Sciences located at 25 Morton Shulman Avenue, Toronto, ON.
- **ACTION: J. Martin update committee on the Centre of Forensic Sciences tour date**
- **ACTION: J. Snider book board room at OFM/CFS for September meeting.**

### **Collaboration with other Committees**

- The committee discussed the benefits of collaborating with the Paramedic and Police section 21 committees on topics of mutual interest.  
**ACTION: T. Morose provide introduction to M. Baxter, PAO President for R. Grimwood and D. Worrall**  
**ACTION: J. Martin share committee's interests in the 2023 joint First Responder S21 committee meeting with the facilitators of the Police and Paramedic committee.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am

2022 meeting dates:

- September 15 and 16, 2022
- December 1 and 2, 2022