

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee  
(Section 21 Committee)\*  
Final MINUTES  
May 24-25, 2012**

**Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto**

**Commencing at noon on May 24, 2012**

**Present:**

Andy Kostiuk	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Ed Godden	OFM
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
John Mavrinc	OPFFA
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Mike Vilneff	O AFC
Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Mark Pankhurst	AMO

Wayne Sutherland	Public Services Health & Safety Association (Observer)
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Joe O'Grady	MOL Facilitator (Acting)
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**Special Guest**

Matt Pegg	Brampton Fire and Emergency Services
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**Regrets:**

Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Darren Storey	FFAO
Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA

### **1. Presentation of the Flame Award to Shayne Mintz**

The Committee and Joe on behalf of the MOL thanked Shayne for his many contributions to the Ontario fire service throughout his career and congratulated him on his appointment as Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal – Fire Protection Services with the Office of the Fire Marshal. Each member also personally expressed their appreciation for the opportunities they had to know and work with Shayne while participating in this Committee's efforts to serve the fire services community.

### **2. Introduction of New OFM Representative**

Doug Outtrim, Instructor (for 10 years) at the Fire College, was introduced to the Committee. Doug will be replacing Ed Godden who is retiring from the OPS and taking a position with the Public Services Health and Safety Association as Project Lead for Strategic Development and Stakeholder Relations. The members welcomed Doug to the group.

3. Andy introduced and welcomed Chief Denys Prevost from Welland as a new representative for the OAFRC, filling the vacancy left by Matt Pegg.

### **4. Review of Minutes from January 19-20, 2012**

The minutes were accepted as written.

**ACTION:** Joe to finalize the minutes and distribute for posting on the websites.

### **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**ACTION:** None

### **6. Review of MOL Engineers Comments on Revised GN # 4-11 Fall Protection from Elevating Devices**

Denys led a discussion around some of the technical issues involved with providing fall protection in these circumstances and the comments received on the draft amendments were reviewed by the Committee; issues around standards and design requirements were raised.

**ACTION:** Joe and Denys to discuss the GN with the MOL Provincial Engineer and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

### **7. Review of MOL Engineer's Comments on GN # 6-14 Safe Roof Operations**

The comments received on the draft amendments were reviewed by the Committee, and the GN was finalized.

**ACTION:** Joe to send the GN to the MOL Provincial Engineer prior to finalizing the GN. Thereafter, the GN will be placed in the manual.

### **8. Review comments on GN # 6-9 Hazardous Materials/ CBRNE Response**

Comments on the GN were reviewed by the Committee and the consensus was that there would be no changes to the note.

**ACTION:** Joe to take the finalized GN through the MOL approvals process.

### **9. Review comments on GN #6-8 Fire Operation Safety During Lightning Storms**

No comments were received on this note. The Committee agreed on a title change to "Firefighter Safety During Lightning Storms" and an edit to bullet #3.

**ACTION:** Joe to take the finalized GN through the MOL approvals process.

**10. Structural Firefighting PPE Guidance Note (Review of PPE Guidance Notes: GN # 4-1, GN #4-2, GN # 4-3, GN # 4-5, GN #4-6, and GN # 4-12)**

Mike and Kevin to undertake a review of GN # 4-1, GN # 4-2, GN # 4-3, GN # 4-5, GN # 4-6, and GN # 4-12, and provided a draft of 4-1 referencing 4-2,3,5, and 6. There was considerable discussion on the pros and cons of having these notes as separate or combined. It was decided to attempt to combine 4-1, 4-3, 4-5, 4-6 and 4-12 into one note to table for discussion at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** 1-Group to review CSA Z94.3 vs GN 4-2, 2- Mike/Denys to provide a revised draft for discussion.

**11. Review of GN # 1-6 Inspection of Chains and Extrication Tools – Rod/Darren**

Revised note discussed, Rod to work from revised version to address straps and cables..

**ACTION:** Joe to forward, Rod to revise the GN for the next meeting.

**12. Review of GN #4 -9 Respiratory Protection Program and CSA Z 94.4-11 – Mike**

Mike presented a revised draft for review. Some minor revisions were made and it was requested that hygiene guidance be requested on testing methods, the role and duties of the program administrator, and the bio-chem regulation.

**ACTION:** Joe to seek MOL hygiene guidance for this revision.

**13. Review of GN # 6-6 Flashover – Rod/John**

This note was discussed and it would be helpful to refocus it in terms of awareness, training, and preventative measures (like 7-4).

**ACTION:** Rod/John to revise for next meeting.

**14. \*Two Items -Training Facilities and NFPA 1402 (Additional information for discussion) and NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition vs. 2012 edition – Andy/Matt Pegg**

Matt Pegg spoke to the issues surrounding the construction of training towers and the recommendations of NFPA 1402 – Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers, 1403-Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, as well as changes coming to NFPA 1981 due to recent investigation reports on failures of SCBA face masks.

Fire Services will require guidance in order to ensure; that facilities are constructed without inherent hazards (i.e.basements), changes to standards are incorporated for worker safety (i.e. use of thermocouples to measure convective heat vs radiant), and the measures that are required to ensure SCBA masks are maintained in good condition in consideration of the improvements to bunker gear.

**ACTION:** Mark to begin draft note based on NFPA 1402.

**15. IAFF RIT Instructional Program – Geoff Boisseau**

This item will be moved forward to a future agenda when Geoff is available to speak.

**ACTION:** Joe to coordinate for future agenda.

**16. Information/Discussion: Letter from the Provincial Labour Management Committee regarding residential sprinklers – Andy/Kevin**

This item to be moved forward to next agenda

**ACTION:** Joe to put this item on next agenda.

## 17. Information/Discussion: Bill to Protect Firefighters from Solar Panel Dangers (US) – Kevin/Andy

With an increasing number of buildings investing in alternative energy, emergency responders are often unable to immediately identify structures that have installed solar panels on their roofs — putting them at risk of electrocution in the event of a fire.

In an effort to protect firefighters against the danger of electrocution posed by solar panels, Assemblyman Robert Schroeder (R-Woodcliff Lake), a volunteer firefighter in the Township of Washington since 1980 who has twice served as fire chief, has sponsored a [bill](#) that would require buildings to clearly label with an exterior emblem whether they have solar panels.

The safety measure was recommended in a National Fire Protection Association [report](#) focusing on structural firefighting in buildings that utilize solar panels to generate thermal and/or electrical energy.

According to the report, buildings with solar power systems "can present a variety of significant hazards" for firefighters.

In addition, the bill requires that all existing and newly constructed buildings with solar panels be equipped with an external shut-off switch.

**ACTION:** None

## 18. Review of GN # 2-2 The Buddy System – Andy/Kevin

Revisions were reviewed and accepted by the committee.

**ACTION:** Joe - Note to move back to the manual.

## 19. MOL Report

Joe reviewed with the group with two online resources to help stakeholders stay informed about MOL activities; What's New, and Safe at Work Ontario online publications.

Keep up to date on the MOL at What's New, available at:

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/whatsnew/december2011.php>

And at Safe at Work Ontario: *Safe At Work Ontario* is the Ministry of Labour's strategy for enforcing the Occupational Health and Safety Act

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/index.php>

Some highlights included messaging that the Prevention Division is taking steps to establish a multi-stakeholder Prevention Council that will advise the Minister and the Chief Prevention Officer on strategic priorities. The application process has just ended, that they are now moving forward on the appointments. Very soon, they will also be putting in place the new Section 21 committees for vulnerable workers and small business.

19. **Other Business** – None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

**September 10-11, 2012 (proposed date)**

**November 29-30, 2012 (proposed date)**