

Meeting Minutes

Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee (Section 21 Committee)

Monday, September 25, 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Tuesday, September 26, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

*Meeting held in-person at Centre for Health & Safety Innovation, 5110 Creebank Road,
Mississauga*

Present:

Rob Grimwood	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Dan Worrall	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Tim Sparks	OPFFA
John Plater	OPFFA
Adam Neal	OPFFA
Harry Baranik	O AFC
Jeff Kirk	O AFC
Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Doug Kellam	Volunteer Firefighter
Andrew King	Volunteer Firefighter
Juanita Martin	MLITSD
Patricia Clausen	PSHSA (Facilitator, virtual)
Kayla Thomson	PSHSA (Minutes)

Regrets:

John Snider	Office of the Fire Marshal (observer)
Aaron Burr ridge	O AFC
Cathy Hoffman	AMO

Guests:

Jackie Sam	PSHSA
Ricardo Romero	PSHSA (In person fill in facilitator for Patricia)
Cristina St. Pierre	Provincial Hygienist
Rebecca Mukuna	MLITSD Policy Advisor
Jason Clarke	MLITSD Prevention Division
Beth Fairley	MLITSD Prevention Division
Bonnie Burke	Deputy Chief Coroner, SOLGEN

Monday, September 25, 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Greetings – D. Worrall and R. Grimwood

- D. Worrall and R. Grimwood greeted the committee.

Welcome New Volunteer Firefighter Member and Patricia Clausen from PSHSA

- R. Grimwood introduced the new committee member, Andrew King, Manager of Health and Safety at Fanshawe College and Strathroy-Caradoc fire department volunteer. They also introduced Patricia Clausen from PSHSA taking over for T. Morose. P. Clausen is

with us virtually today; Ricardo Romero is in attendance in person as her fill in. The committee did a round table of introductions.

Review of Minutes from June 8 and 9, 2023 Meeting – D. Worrall and R. Grimwood

- No changes.

Cyclical Review of Guidance Notes – J. Martin

New cycle to begin in 2025.

6-44 Hoarding Conditions

- Committee discussed adding some verbiage for medical call considerations (Bed bugs, etc.).
- In the “Potential hazards” section, add in examples of calls outside of structure fires (Fire, medical, trapped people, etc.).
- Under “Employers should”, add that they should “Evaluate and report hoarding”.
- Under “Considerations”, add in the precautions surrounding putting equipment down on a surface where the work-related item can be exposed to contamination and that stacked items may interfere with sprinkler systems.

6-45 Pre-Incident Planning

- Committee discussed the addition of building uses, zoning and special features a building may have under the “Considerations” section.
- Under “Standards”, add in NFPA standard for pre incident planning.

7-1 Safe Training

- Under “Background”, update verbiage to say “Training should resemble” not “Training must resemble”.
- Under the “Precautions” section under “In the training safety plan, identify:” add a sub bullet: “How an emergency will be managed”. Also, the addition of “Specifically defib and medical bag, appointment of safety officer and ensuring folks know how to use safety equipment”.
- Add a link to NFPA 1410, GN 3-3 Heat stress, OSHA clause 25(2)(c) and (b).

7-3 Training Plan

- No changes.

7-4 Firefighter Survival and Self-Rescue Training

- Committee discussed the addition of ensuring that training programs are effective or having some form of measurement. It should be ensured that firefighters can demonstrate skills they have been taught for self-rescue.
- Add in reference to NFPA 1407 in a new “Related” section.
- Add in “required safety equipment” to the last paragraph of the “self-rescue training programs” section.

7-5 Live Fire Training and Acquired Structures

- Committee to discuss R. Grimwood’s new guidance note in relation to this one. This guidance note was reviewed in June of 2022 due to a situation that had happened at the time.

7-6 Training Centres

- No changes.

7-7 Ground Ladder Training

- No changes.

Guidance Note Comments

6-26 Ottawa Feedback Side by Side Comparison – R. Grimwood

- Committee discussed the feedback received during the June meeting where a rewrite was submitted by Ottawa Fire. A side-by-side review was done by R. Grimwood and a few of their changes have been incorporated into the updated guidance note. Overall, the intent had no changes.
- The committee did a side-by-side review of the old guidance note and the updates from R. Grimwood with some of Ottawa Fire’s recommendations included. There were some details in the background added, a few new bullets under “actions for employers” as well as details within some pre-existing bullet points for clarity.

Marine Vessel Guidance Note – H. Baranik

- Quebec had two firefighters go out on the water and their boat capsized. The investigation into the line of duty death recommended training and procedures for firefighters operating boats, that is why this guidance note was created.
- H. Baranik did a quick overview of the contents of the guidance note for the committee.
- Committee discussed the training requirements for all firefighters on the boat and who does and does not need a boater’s license.

ACTION: J. Martin to finalize guidance note and send to P. Clausen to go out for comment with OAF.

Lithium-Ion Energy Storage Systems Draft Guidance Note – D. Worrall

- D. Worrall gave an overview of the contents of the guidance note for the committee.
- It was noted that as the guidance note goes through the approvals process, there may be concurrent changes in legislation/recommendations.
- The committee discussed the difference between the published electric/hybrid vehicle guidance note and this one which is battery specific. Edits will be made so as not to duplicate information.
- Committee discussed the health and safety concerns and experiences for released gases and new plants coming to Ontario for electric vehicles.

ACTION: D. Worrall to update the draft to be more general battery related and remove mention of vehicles. Guidance note to open with new information about the topic.

3-3 Update Station Wear/Thermal Load/Breathability – T. Sparks/A. Burrige

- Deferred to next meeting.

6-46 Unsheltered Encampments Draft Guidance Note – J. Plater/M. Pankhurst

- J. Plater and M. Pankhurst gave the committee an overview of the contents of the guidance note.
- There were recommendations to help with flow and grammar that were agreed with by the committee and updated in the draft.
- Under concerns/hazards, adding in examples of communicable diseases is beneficial. Example of hazards added include tuberculosis.

- The term “Homeless” to be replaced by “Unsheltered”.

ACTION: J. Martin to finalize guidance note and send to P. Clausen to go out for comment with O AFC.

Live Fire Training Guidance Note – A. Neal/R. Grimwood/ J. Snider

- R. Grimwood gave an overview for the committee of the contents of the guidance note.
- The committee discussed the differences between this guidance note and the acquired structures guidance note (7-5) and whether they should be combined. The committee was in agreement to keep them separate but ensure they reference each other.

ACTION: J. Martin to finalize guidance note and send to P. Clausen to go out for comment with O AFC.

Air Monitoring Guidance Note – D. Worrall/J. Kirk

- Deferred to next meeting.

Policy Update - R. Mukuna

Heat Stress Consultation

- MLITSD is proposing to introduce a stand-alone heat stress regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) with specific requirements that would apply to all workplaces to which the OHSA applies.
- The regulation would:
 - Introduce heat stress exposure limits based on the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists’ (ACGIH) method.
 - Provide for the use of other methods to assess a worker’s risk of exposure to heat stress.
 - Require employers to identify and implement measures and procedures to control heat exposures based on the hierarchy of controls.
 - Require employers to provide worker information and instruction on recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses and the measures to protect themselves.
- A consultation paper, which includes a draft regulation, was posted on the [Regulatory Registry](#) for comments. The consultation period ended on September 18, 2023.
- Committee discussed the difference across different departments’ heat stress guidelines. Having one resource would be very beneficial.

Poor Outdoor Air Quality Consultation

- Outdoor air quality in Ontario can vary due to a number of factors including impacts from events such as forest fires.
- The OHSA and its regulations do not specifically address poor outdoor air quality.
- MLITSD sought [feedback](#) on whether poor outdoor air quality is an issue for Ontario workplaces, and whether the OHSA and/or its regulations may need to be changed. The consultation period ended on September 18, 2023.

Regulation Working Group – R. Grimwood

- Proposed changes to O. Reg. 714 have been under development by the committee for a long time.

- R. Grimwood and D. Worrall went over their recommendations for O. Reg. 714 with the committee. The recommendations include a larger conversation on bunker gear safety.
- Training, written procedures and cancer prevention were the focused topics, the prioritizing of topics was discussed at the June meeting. R. Grimwood noted that BC has some resources that could be interesting to the committee, it's recommended to check it out.

References:

- <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-31-firefighting>
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/fire-safety/training>

ACTION: R. Grimwood and D. Worrall to send documents to committee for review.

ACTION: R. Grimwood and D. Worrall's boards to review the recommendations this month. An update to be provided for next meeting.

- J. Martin noted the process of regulatory development and that regulatory amendments can take years.

Cancer Communications Working Group – P. Clausen, K. Thomson, R. Grimwood, C. Hoffman and M. Pankhurst

- No update. Defer to next meeting.

O AFC Update – R. Grimwood

- The O AFC AGM is happening in November and has become a full week event. R. Grimwood reminded the committee to register if they are interested and went over the agenda for the week. There is no S21 update this year, it was discussed that the committee will update at the AGM every other year.
- R. Grimwood is going to Boston to the NFPA Fire Chiefs Forum in November with all presidents of Fire Chief Associations to talk about an assortment of topics. An update to come at next meeting.

OPFFA Update – D. Worrall

- During the last week of August, they were at the IAFF Redmond conference. Conversations had revolved mainly around PFAS.
- D. Worrall had a conversation with an Australian firefighter about what they're doing about PFAS. In Australia they found that by giving blood, you lose PFAS (10% giving blood, 30% giving plasma). There was also talk on interesting fire rescue techniques.
- The OPFFA seminar is coming up with great discussion points and speakers including some of S21's own members and past meeting guest (Dr. Demers, WSIB, etc.)

ACTION: D. Worrall and R. Grimwood to see about meeting with the CPO about where the next steps should be in regards to medical surveillance.

PSHSA Update – P. Clausen and J. Sam

Prevention Plans – J. Sam

- PTSD Prevention Plans that were submitted by emergency service organizations in 2017 don't necessarily match the current state of the programs as much time has passed.
- A Working Group that included WSIB, MLITSD, MHS and PSHSA was tasked to identify any linkages to organizations with PTSD prevention plans and WSIB claims (from 2017 to 2022).

- Findings were presented to the Key Government Partners Table to inform the issue.
- It was found that police services with more robust plans had better outcomes relative to the comparison group:
 - Improvements in claim registration timelines.
 - Lower claim durations.
 - Higher proportion of RTW plan closures.
 - Smaller proportion of the total allowed claims.
- They have seen an improvement in registration timeliness as they had an average of 43 days from injury to registration while other Police Services had an average of 71 days.
- Fire services had lower durations compared to the other Police groups, and had a higher proportion of return to work plans closed with a return to the pre-injury employer than other police groups.
- Only 21% of allowed claims under the presumptive legislation were from the Top 17, which may suggest a need to broaden the uptake of the prevention plans.
- All of which may suggest a need to broaden the uptake of prevention plans.
- There is interest from SOLGEN and MLITSD to see how PTSD Prevention Plans have progressed since 2017.
- This would contribute to informing how PTSD Prevention Plans could be updated and better utilized from a system perspective, including:
 - Identify what leading practices are occurring.
 - How to support the uptake of these leading practices at other organizations (particularly smaller services).
 - Share findings across the sector.
 - Assist with prevention plan renewal and resubmission.
- Including - Allowing PSHSA to identify leading practices that are occurring.

Questions to the group:

- Have public safety organizations kept their PTSD Prevention Plans up to date?
 - How would you rate the current state of the plan?
 - What have you implemented or changed?
 - What are the lessons learned that can be applied across all services and stakeholders?
- If so, there could be just a resubmission.
- If not, what kind of supports would be helpful for organizations to *renew* their plans?
 - Suggestion – update firstrespondersfirst.ca (through jurisdictional scan and literature review) with current resources so organizations can renew their plans and resubmit.
- What kind of supports would be helpful for organizations to renew plans?
- What kind of supports would be helpful to assist implementation of plans?
- Follow-up questions – what kind of supports would be helpful to assist *implementation* of plans?

Committee discussion:

- Committee discussed that when this came out in 2017 there was little guidance and how there was no follow-up regarding the prevention plans.
- A template for PTSD prevention would be beneficial as well as a list of resources to help with creation. Large organizations may have a plethora of their own information, but some may need help on where to start.

- The committee commented on how PSHSA had a “How to write a PTSD prevention plan” course and it was useful.
- Some food for thought:
 - Within the past 10 years we’ve had many line of duty deaths due to suicide.
 - There is an overwhelming list of resources but how do you make sense of the list? Which one is good, which one should you stay away from?
 - What is the number needed where we finally look into the effects of mental health?
 - What is the cost of PTSD to the Ontario government?
- Examples of some of the activities fire services are doing:
 - Resiliency training
 - Wellness and fitness committees
 - Peer support teams
 - Department psychologists

RECOMMENDATION: Go back to municipalities that didn’t submit anything, get them up and running and deep dive into others that did and see what went wrong and what worked.

ACTION: Continue conversation in November with J. Snider present to talk about OFM’s and mental health secretariat initiatives.

ACTION: Send additional feedback and comments to J. Sam following the meeting. Her email to be provided to the committee following the meeting.

New eLearning Offering: R2 The Fundamentals – P. Clausen

- Resilience is a dynamic process that enhances both individual and collective wellbeing to cope with, adapt to, and be better prepared to overcome adversity, obstacles, or significant sources of stress. The capacity to build resilience is multi-dimensional and influenced by the presence of resilience-promoting factors in our environments. Thus, the capacity to build resilient organizations is interconnected both from what we can contribute as individuals and how we can be supported at work.
- [R2 – The Fundamentals](#) is based on the work of Dr. Michael Ungar and the Resilience Research Centre. This course explains how the R2 model builds resilience by strengthening:
 - **Rugged qualities that reside within**
These are changeable internal qualities such as our self-confidence, optimism, mindfulness, and our ability to set goals and think critically.
 - **Resources that we need / support us when facing adversity.**
Resources can include experiences of control, meaningful relationships, access to services and supports, structures and routines.
- Participants will learn an innovative approach to building resilience in both personal and professional environments.
- **Who should take this course:** Everyone at all organizational levels and sectors.
- **Cost:** \$25 per person. Free for Public Safety organizations.

Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) PHS Audit Tool

- PSHSA has the privilege of working closely with the Mental Health Commission of Canada as part of a team of consultants contracted to assist with the development of a high-quality training program which will be used to qualify individuals to conduct psychological health and safety (PHS) workplace audits under license by MHCC. The PHS audit and associated training are the first of their kind in Canada. Qualified auditors will be able to conduct audits as an internal or external auditor using the MHCC PHS Audit Tool. MHCC will be piloting the program starting Fall 2023.

October is Global Ergonomics Month

- Global Ergonomics Month is an international outreach campaign promoting human-centred design through the science, application and profession of ergonomics or human factors. These disciplines are focused on optimizing overall system performance and human well-being by proactively designing work and work systems that improve efficiency, productivity, health, safety and comfort.
- Ergonomics is ultimately good for business and good for people. The purpose of Global Ergonomics Month is to raise awareness and educate the public on the benefits of ergonomics.
- PSHSA is proud to be presenting at the upcoming [October 2023 ACE Conference: Connected in Ergonomics](#) on Cognitive Demands Descriptions: Leading practices for preparation and execution in complex workplaces along with a poster presentation on Using Job Demands Descriptions for Stay at Work and Return to Work in Policing.
- Refer to [PSHSA's: Safe Environments MSD and Ergonomics web page](#) for details and resources to prevent MSD's and enhance ergonomics awareness benefits.

Miscellaneous – P. Clausen

- A new Fire S21 inbox has been set-up at PSHSA so there's a more common place for comments to go: FireGN@pshsa.ca.
- PSHSA 2022 – 23 AGM reminder – September 28th, 2023.

Industrial Fire – M. Pankhurst

- Discussed process of sending bunker gear for 3rd party cleaning & testing. It had been cleaned after heavy soiling but remained discoloured. Testing determined there were no polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons present, and the gear was returned to service.

Tuesday, September 26, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

PFAS Discussion – All

- C. St. Pierre shared that there is an inquest related to PFAS happening that they are looking into.
- D. Worrall shared that there is research being done on how much PFAS firefighters have in them. A few members have participated by donating blood while in New York at an event. They have not gotten any information back yet, however.
- Committee retold the story from yesterday about firefighters who donate blood losing PFAS numbers for C. St. Pierre. It was noted that most fire departments are transitioning to foam that does not contain PFAS and are, for the most part, not wearing bunker gear outside of firefighting.

ACTION: Dan to send blood donation information to C. St. Pierre.

- Committee discussed other similar firefighter research that they have been a part of and are planning on taking part in later this year. Last year there was a conference of scientists that C. St. Pierre attended with one day focused on what's being researched and a second day with a discussion on what's being done and what should be done.
- There was discussion about a bunker gear contract that has ended and they have said to other businesses that they won't be awarding a new long-term contract until they can resolve the issue of PFAS in bunker gear. Other changes are coming/in the works at their department regarding prevention including the changing of foam. Other committee

members joined in on the discussion about changes coming to their departments including the use of station wear under bunker gear and switching to something like cotton.

- Committee discussed how there are not enough products to solve the problem. Everything you pick, including station wear, has a downside. Committee discussed how there aren't many safer options, unfortunately, PFAS is in everything, and not many departments can afford to replace everything that they have for their members. It was noted that there are over 9,000 chemicals are considered PFAS and every day they add another one.
- Committee discussed what departments are doing in other countries. The EU has certain PFAS regulations that require all gear to be PFAS free. Australia will draw the blood of firefighters but can't donate it because of the drugs they are on so they take the blood to help with PFAS numbers but end up throwing it out.
- This is a continuous conversation and we are only at the beginning. They're even finding it in water.

Diesel Exhaust – C. St. Pierre

- C. St. Pierre gave an overview of diesel fuel and diesel exhaust for the committee with IARC having diesel engine exhaust classified as carcinogenic to humans. Lung and possible bladder cancer are the top 2 types of cancer that can come from diesel engine exhaust.
- Components of diesel exhaust include:
 - Carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, aldehydes, hydrocarbons, and diesel particulate matter (DPM).
- Diesel particulate matter (DPM) consists of:
 - Soot, carbon, ash, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), sulfates, and silicates.
- C. St. Pierre also gave an overview of occupational exposure limits under Reg. 854 and the future of it being included in Reg. 833. Some sources of exposure include:
 - Workers may be exposed when driving diesel vehicles and/or when operating or repairing diesel powered equipment and machinery.
 - Diesel exhaust can accumulate in fire stations, including the living and sleeping areas, and other spaces with poor ventilation.
 - Workers may be exposed during active firefighting through a combination of idling engines, use of diesel-powered equipment, components of smoke and combustion products.
- There are a few ways FF can reduce exposures like:
 - Consider using cleaner sources of fuel or power other than diesel, if possible.
 - Use low-emission engines, fuel additives, filtration or catalytic converters that will help reduce emissions.
 - Design fire halls with ventilation to prevent accumulation of diesel exhaust in living and sleeping areas, e.g. maintaining them under positive pressure.
 - Operate diesel powered equipment outdoors, in a well-ventilated space, or with exhaust removal systems.
 - Avoid idling indoors and ensure garage doors are open when operating a diesel engine.
 - Maintain ventilation and exhaust removal systems in good condition.
 - Maintain diesel engine and diesel-powered equipment in good condition to reduce the emissions.
 - Follow safe work procedures when decontaminating gear and equipment to prevent exposure to diesel particulate matter (DPM).

- Maintain good housekeeping where DPM may accumulate and ensure workers are adequately protected, possibly through the use of a respirator, during clean-up activities.
- Train workers on the hazards associated with DPM and diesel exhaust, and safety measures to take to prevent or minimize exposures.
- Committee discussed with C. St. Pierre about the future intent of Reg. 833 to be updated to include the information discussed in her presentation. Right now there is not any information about a release of the update to Reg. 833. C. St. Pierre recommended ventilation as a best option for staying healthy around diesel exhaust.
- Cleaning gear in the end helps but isn't perfect as the gear does absorb the exhaust being exposed to it continuously. The cancer prevention checklist recommendation could be followed and separate everything but that involves construction and money for most departments.
- Committee discussed other instances of diesel exhaust exposure minimization including exhaust diverters on trucks where when on, the diesel goes up the top of a truck instead of pointing at the pump operator. It was also discussed about research into diesel exhaust exposure. D. Worrall has a contact he will share who would be interested in learning more.

ACTION: D. Worrall to connect C. St. Pierre with his contact.

Coroner Line of Duty Death Process Update – Deputy Chief Coroner B. Burke

- Committee discussed with B. Burke the process following a line of duty death, who gets contacted when and such.
- B. Burke gave an overview of the line of duty death policies and procedures regarding firefighters including the flow chart of events triggered by a line of duty death.
- D. Worrall let the committee know that they have sent this higher up for feedback including lawyers. It was shared that this was very well put together. B. Burke does recognize that they are behind in having this but the committee is appreciative that this is finally happening.
- The document is not quite ready, still needs approvals. As soon as it gets signed it will be effective. Unfortunately, they've already had to use it before it was completely finished due to a line of duty death recently and it was helpful.

ACTION: Next step is that D. Worrall and R. Grimwood are to meet with the Fire Marshal to build performa.

- Committee discussed the line of duty death document shared by B. Burke including stakeholders. It's not certain yet for the performa whether it's a large or small committee. The committee commented on how well this project went and working with the coroners, how helpful they were.

New Business

Prevention Presentation/Outreach Re JHSC Cert – J. Clarke And B. Fairley

- The Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) established JHSC Certification Training Program and Provider Standards contain a commitment to be reviewed every five years.
- The Prevention Division is currently reviewing the JHSC standards.
- The intent of the review is to ensure the standards remain effective, relevant, and up to date.

- Overall, survey results show a high degree of confidence in JHSC certification training. A range of suggestions were made. The emerging themes received were split into 10 categories including committee formation topics, hybrid learning, barriers for workers, small business support, French language, ASL, costs and reimbursement.
- MLITSD prevention division is looking to validate what they've learned in the process so far.

Committee highlighted:

- **Delivery modes:**
 - With volunteers as committee members, they have to take time off of work to complete and would be nice to have a larger window for distance learning or more options for self-paced learning.
 - Hybrid option is important. Interpretation can vary so a hybrid option to interact is beneficial to online training.
 - Prevention division noted that they will capture this and see that the technical advisory committee knows this.
- **Content:**
 - A focus on what's new and emerging during Refresher training would be great.
 - Prevention division noted that they are exploring refresher and part 2 delivery modes.
 - Supervisor advisory training needs more details.
 - Prevention division noted that they will look into this further.
 - Are psychosocial hazards covered? Beneficial to have psychosocial included in part 2 for public safety and EMS
 - Prevention division is open to hearing more, right now mainly physical hazards are covered. They have also heard from others about the need for psychosocial topics.
 - Thoughts on having sector specific Refresher training?
 - Prevention division noted that this did not come up, but they can look into it.
- **Other comments:**
 - Is there talk of using AI to help with the green book?
 - Prevention division noted that there has been one comment on AI in training but they can take back the idea of using it with the green book.
 - Everyone should have the same training. Right now only one person may be certified, who should it be? What if the certified member is not on duty but something comes up?
 - Prevention division has received different feedback for coaching co-chairs on how to handle those situations or further developing who needs certification.
 - Mandating a time between joining the committee and needing certification was also a recommendation.
 - They will capture this and see that the technical advisory committee knows this.
- Committee noted the training of employers as committees can take recommendations to the employer but the employer doesn't necessarily understand what they are being asked.

MLITSD Reports – J. Martin

- Annual stats and enforcement:
 - J. Martin went over the annual stats for the fire service with the committee.

- Committee discussed fatality numbers being at zero. J. Martin clarified that these numbers include traumatic deaths where the ministry was called to investigate, whether they actually investigate or not.
- These numbers are ministry specific and do not include the numbers that WSIB would have which will most likely be much higher.
- Committee discussed how some fire department supervisors don't necessarily know what is considered a critical injury and may not even report it.

ACTION: J. Martin to add order details to the stats document and send back to the committee.

- Of the 44 orders that were written last year, 9 references were found to fire guidance notes and all mentioned were times they should have been mentioned.
- Where hygienists were present, they also made reference to the firefighter cancer prevention checklist.
- Webpage hits:
 - 1,800 hits on the checklist.
 - Guidance notes total – 119,000 page views.
- Guidance notes status updates:
 - J. Martin went over updates to guidance notes. What is published, what is ready for posting, what is in review with the ministry and what guidance notes the committee is currently reviewing.

Government Relations Update – R. Grimwood/D. Worrall

- 5 government relation priorities updates:
 - **Modernizing O. Reg. 714/94** – There has been some progress.
 - **Line of duty death** – Project has completed.
 - **PTSD prevention plans** – Moving to next steps.
 - **Slow down move over public education** – Met with MTO three times, everyone is engaged, environment scan being done.
 - **Early detection of occupational cancer** – Have made good progress but want to sit with Dr. Moody on next steps.
- O AFC currently has 31 government advocacy topics in conversation.
- Chief of staff to the Minister reached out to stakeholders. Minister was supposed to be with S21 in December and CPO in March.

ACTION: J. Martin to update the invite to include new Ministers name and send to D. Worrall and R. Grimwood for signature.

Diesel Particulate

- C. St. Pierre recommended that pump operators could wear N95 as best practice. Doesn't protect from gas but does protect from the particulate.

COVID-19

- Committee discussed the use of masks during this part of the pandemic. Only one comment was made on how they aren't making them a requirement.

NEW GN: Light Rail, Subway and Rail Line

- D. Worrall suggested the addition of a new guidance note to cover variations of rail related emergencies. The committee agreed it would be beneficial.

ACTION: A. King, D. Worrall and D. Kellam to work on GN.

ACTION: R. Grimwood to send a contact he has for this.

ACTION: J. Martin to send resources she had worked on regarding subway.

Multi-Site Agreements

- Committee discussed timelines for hearing back. The process is by a local office, there are a large amount to go through so months at a time is considered normal.

Last Meeting Of 2023

November 30 and December 1

2024 Meeting Dates

February 29 and March 1, 2024

June 13 and 14, 2024

September 16 and 17, 2024

November 28 and 29, 2024