



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

Minutes of the Zone 2 Meeting

Friday, October 14, 2011

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre

14 Anderson Lane

Participants: Larry Coplen, Dave Cunliffe, Terry Dicks, Grant Dix, Rob Grimwood, Chris Halliday, Geoff Hayman, Rodger Hill, Greg Hudson, Jim Jessop, Larry Jones, Brian Kennedy, Jeff McCormick, Mark Mehlenbacher, Kevin Roach, Phil Ross, Rob Simonds, Lee Smith, Rick Smith, Cam Stephenson, Greg Warner, Dave Wood, Jo Zambito

Guests: Rick Finnemore, OFM, Shayne Mintz, OAFCA and John Dunn, Niagara Falls FD

Minute Taker: Joanne Miron

1. Welcome

- Chief Grimwood extended a warm welcome to all members and guests and thanked Interim Chief Warner from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department for hosting
- Interim Chief Greg Warner welcomed everyone to the meeting and the new Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre

2. Dealing with Hoarding – John Dunn, Niagara Falls FD

FPO Dunn gave a power point presentation on the issue of hoarding. The Niagara Falls FD became involved in this issue last December and finished months later in October 2011. On December 16, 2010 the gas company contacted the police regarding a possible hoarding issue. The police in turn called the fire department and the fire crew notified the FPO. First contact was made on February 24, 2011 but the owner refused entry. Observing the outside of the building the FPO determined the property lacked the proper fire and life safety measures so used Sec 21(f) of the FPPA as the legislative tool to begin the process. The inspection order was served in person and by mail in March 2011. The content explained the order, rights and appeals. A compliance re-inspection took place on April 26th however there hadn't been any compliance with the order. Due to non-compliance, the following steps were considered:

1. Part 3 Provincial Offences charges – failure to comply
2. Section 32(1) FPPA – apply to the judge
3. Section 33(1) FPPA – apply to Fire Safety Commission

The case was taken to the Fire Safety Commission who issued a decision on August 25, 2011 authorizing FPO Dunn to do work as prescribed. After much planning and coordinating between agencies such as contractors, police, appraisers, health unit and bylaw they tried to commence work on September 27th, 2011. Once again, the owner denied entry into the building. Although the decision gave permission to do the work it did not give anyone permission to enter the premise so the FPO had to go before the Justice of the Peace for a warrant to enter the building which was granted. After rescheduling all parties the warrant was executed on October 3, 2011. All work was completed by October 5th using the company Miller Restoration. Follow up will consist of a debriefing between all parties, ongoing visits to the property and the recovery of costs under Sec 35(1) of the FPPA order to pay costs. A copy of the decision was circulated for review. Currently trying to find alternative ways of dealing with hoarding as this process taxed the resources of the department and was very expensive.

3. Update from the Fire Marshal's Office – Rick Finnemore

- a) FPS Management Status -
 - Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal – waiting announcement – process is complete
 - Manager Dennis Ganon – seconded for restructuring – heads MAP
 - Acting SW Operations Manager – Jeff Dick
 - New SE Operations Manager – Olaf Lamerz
- b) Current Staffing Levels -
 - 1988 – 220 staff, 40 advisors
 - Today – 206 staff, 16 specialist & 17 advisors
 - SW – 2 specialists (1 short) and 4 advisors (1 short)
- c) Fire Protection Program
- d) Specialist – External Assignment –
 - Outlined the various assignments of the specialists
- e) Communique –
 - OFM-TG-01-2011 – Handling Flammable and Combustible Liquids in School Laboratories
 - OFM-TG-02-2011 – Safe Practices for the Use of Alcohol-based Hand Rub
- f) FM Directive
 - 2011-001 – OFM Notification of Fires and Explosions
 - 2008-001 – Standard Incident Report Filing
 - 2002-001 – Disposal of Material or Thing Removed under the Authority of Clause 15 (1)(c) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, as amended
- g) Local Projects
 - Overall annual compliance is high
 - Think about using the Fire Risk Sub Model to put the Simplified Risk Assessment together
 - Fire Protection Essentials Seminar reminder
- h) Recent issues – farmers converting barns to assembly buildings without bringing the barns up to standard

- i) Things to Come –
 - Last paper copy of the messenger – available electronically only
 - Draft TAPPC for teenagers to be piloted
 - FPA updates will be given at fall training
 - All OFM activities are being linked to legislation
 - Reviewing FPPA re powers and duties of FM – are changing

4. CAFC Update – Rob Simonds

Discussed as outlined below:

- a) Organizational Review
 - Non profit – head office in Ottawa
 - 25 member Board of Directors
 - Affiliated organization
 - Voice of Canadian Fire Services and trusted advisor to the PM office
 - 1000 members
- b) CAFC Committees
 - The following committees exist:
 - i. Government Relations
 - ii. Memberships
 - iii. Fire and Life Safety
 - iv. Resolution, By-law and Constitution
 - v. Nomination
 - vi. Program
 - vii. Editorial
 - viii. Building and Code
 - ix. Awards
 - x. Labour Relations (new committee)
- c) CAFC Successes
 - Government Relations week was March 21 – 24 in Ottawa
 - Meeting with elected and appointed officials of government
 - Reception with Members of Parliament held on Parliament Hill
 - Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit
 - Bill C36 passed – appeared before Standing Committee for C36 and H1N1
 - Pandemic preparedness in wake of H1N1 pandemic in 2009
 - National Fire Incident Data Research Project
 - i. To develop a web based program showing fire statistics available to all FD and organizations in Canada
 - ii. Conducted by University of Fraser Valley
 - iii. Funded by Canadian Police research centre
 - Fire Rescue Canada
 - i. Annual conference consisting of seminars and workshops
 - ii. Attract leading authorities and vendors
 - iii. Fire Chief of the year awarded
 - iv. Vendor gallery
 - Getting out of telemarketing in order to raise funds – creates other problems so will look at other revenue streams
- d) CAFC Program and Initiatives
 - CFO designation

- Leadership development program/Beyond Hoses & Helmets
- Tri Services partnership
- Membership recruitment
- Communication plan
- e) Look into the Future
 - Implement strategic priorities
 - Public Safety Canada requires someone from CAFC to discuss issues
 - Enhance communications
 - Increase diversity at all levels of CAFC
 - Increase public awareness
 - Proactively manage key partnerships.
 - Survey the membership to understand current value of being a member
- f) Q/A – centered around the benefit of the fire fighter tax credit

5. “Lessons Learned” – Ice Rescue in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Fire Chief Rob Grimwood showed a power point presentation on an ice rescue that took place January 4th, 2011 on Lake Ontario. He gave the details of the call, actions that were taken on route and once on scene. Fire fighters searched the shoreline with TICs with no success. St. Catharines FD offered mutual aid as well as a boat so a different rescue strategy was put in place with firefighters entering the icy water to search. Eventually the child was found, taken to hospital but was pronounced dead.

The fire fighters faced the following challenges at the incident:

- Lack of initial information
 - Communication issues
 - Coordination issue with the Niagara Regional Police Department
 - Fire fighter response issues and delays
 - EMS readiness for patient
 - Boat launch issue
 - Use of Coast Guard boats
 - Initial challenge of getting a rescue boat
 - Profile and visibility of the call
 - Media and public relations
 - Politics
 - Well being of the fire fighters - had critical incident stress debrief immediately following incident
- } pressure increased as time passed

Positive outcomes of incident:

- Coordination with SCFD good
- SCFD ice rescue operations well executed
- Dispatch did an excellent job
- Good communication and accountability between SCFD and NOTL
- Safe effective operation
- Post call management effective
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NOTL came out of the situation better prepared without changing the mandate of Council’s decision to do shore based rescue. Rescue was a success in light of all

the challenges but the outcome was tragic. Further discussion took place regarding water/ice rescues, level and types of service, required equipment and the ability of other agencies to respond.

6. “Lesson Learned” – Scrap yard Fire in Thorold

Chief Halladay gave a presentation on the lessons learned when Thorold and several mutual aid partners responded to a major scrap yard fire in Thorold on June 30, 2011. A map was shown explaining the various station locations and manpower available. He showed pictures to explain what was found upon arrival and the tactics used to fight the fire. Once it started getting dark and the fire was still burning, safety became a concern. The next tactic was to use grappling hooks to separate the piles and battle the blaze. MOE required the FD to manage the water so a trench and pond was dug at the SE corner of the property.

What went right?

- Communication with the public
- Reassessment and reaction – changed tactics when required
- Used mutual aid
- Moved lots of water
- Held regular tactical and safety briefing in command post

Lessons Learned:

- Call external resources early
- Use Regional Fire Coordinator
- Look after yourself
- Complacency – don’t give up your resources
- One chief officer cannot manage a fire of that magnitude
- Challenges faced on a statutory holiday
- Improve fireground accountability system between departments

7. New Business

- 1) Reminder – OAFC Mid Term is November 23rd and 24th in Kitchener
- 2) The two resolutions moved at the last meeting were presented at the conference. The resolution regarding central bargaining database went through but the resolution concerning vacant buildings was defeated. Will be dealt with through a Section 21 Guidance Note.
- 3) No new resolutions were brought forward
- 4) Next meeting to be held on March 23rd, 2012 hosted by Brantford.

8. OAFC Update – Shayne Mintz

- a) Review minutes of the last OAFC Board meeting (OAFC BOD minutes will be distributed to all Zone 2 members)
- b) Gave an update on the status of the Section 21 Guidance Notes (Section 21 Committee Meeting minutes are available on the OAFC website)
- c) A roundtable discussion took place on several topics as a result of the review of the minutes and GN

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.