



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 3A Meeting Minutes

In-person
Friday, April 20, 2018
9:30am

Participants: Brad Patton (CW Fire & Rescue), Richard Boyes (O AFC), Rick Finnermore (OFMEM), Ron Morden (Orangeville FD), John Osborne (Guelph FD), Steve Goode (Guelph FD), Luis Gomes (Puslinch FD), Chris Harrow (Minto FD), Rick Richardson (Mapleton FD), Bill Hunter (Perth East FD), Brian Arnold (Cambridge FD), Rod Leeson (Wilmot FD), Mike Richardson (Orangeville & Fire District), Marco Guidotti (Wellington North), Dale Martin (Woolwich), Robert Shants (North Dumfries), Mike Richardson (Orangeville), Edward Smith (North Perth), Jim Sawkins (Erin), Gary Depatie (Perth East)

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chief Patton welcomed all to the fall meeting. As host of the meeting, Chief Osborne also welcomed everyone and gave a brief description on the Clair Road Emergency Services Centre.
2. **Additions to the Agenda** – None
3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – None
4. **O AFC Update (Richard Boyes)** –
 - **O AFC Conference 2018**
 - The 2018 Conference has a new format, based on member feedback from the past two years.
 - The Conference is Thursday, May 3 to Sunday, May 6, with the Trade Show on May 4 and 5.
 - The main hotel for the Conference (Delta) is already fully booked; however, members are able to book a room at the Holiday Inn, which are just a short walking distance directly across the road from the Conference hotel. Shuttles will be provided.
 - We know some members have recently expressed dissatisfaction with this year's event due to limited space at the conference hotel for accommodations, resulting in a decision not to attend the event.
 - However, this decision has potential to be detrimental to everyone. Without our members attending and participating in the conference, we are at risk of not being able to host the Memorial Service, raise money for charity, and bring value to our trade show exhibitors and sponsors – which we all enjoy so much every year.
 - If you did not book early to guarantee a room at the conference hotel, we hope you still see the value in this event and plan to attend. Please reach out to the O AFC office if you need any assistance with booking conference accommodations.
 - It should be noted that the O AFC reserved the same amount of rooms at the conference hotel as in all years passed, so this problem is a little bizarre, although easily mitigated thanks to quick work at the O AFC office.



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- We also recently added the following sessions on Friday May, 4:
 - An OAFCh member meeting/breakfast at 7am. This one-hour working breakfast will for members to discuss association business.
 - A discussion regarding the proposed fire regulations, where Technical Table members will answer your questions, will be held at 4:30pm.
 - The Trade Show will be held at the International Centre on Airport Road in Mississauga. This venue and timing enables a more interactive and explorative format. Shuttles are provided.
 - The OAFCh general meeting will be moving to November in 2018, replacing the Midterm Meeting's Business Section. Elections will also move with the general meeting.
- **Fire Safety Technical Table**
 - The OAFCh supports the Fire Safety Technical Table's mandate, recognizing the proposed regulations are an important stride forward in the professionalization of the Ontario fire service.
 - The Technical Table serves in a consulting, not advisory, capacity to the MCSCS. Decisions are made at the Ministry level.
 - OAFCh is represented at the Table by President Hernen and Executive Vice President Arnel. Other OAFCh Board and association members participate in the Table, on behalf of their respective municipalities: Deputy Chief Kim Ayotte, Ottawa; Chief Ted Bryan, Otonabee-South Monaghan; Chief John Hay, Thunder Bay; Deputy Chief Jim Jessop, Toronto; and Chief Shawn Armstrong, Kingston.
 - The Technical Table met Wednesday, March 21 to review public comments on the draft regulations. More than 400 comments were received.
 - Based on the outcomes of the Technical Table's upcoming meetings, the OAFCh is planning to host a member's webinar, providing an update on the status of the proposed regulations. Date and timing is to be confirmed.
- **MCSCS Draft Regulations**
 - The OAFCh released a briefing note on February 7 about the proposed regulations on mandatory training and certification, as well as community risk assessments to assist OAFCh members in the development of their responses to the draft MCSCS fire regulations. A revised [briefing note](#) with response to third draft regulation on public reporting was issued on February 28.
 - The OAFCh submitted [formal comments](#) in response to the draft regulations on March 7. These were shared with the membership the same day, and are available on the OAFCh website.
 - The OAFCh believes that specialized funding must be provided to all fire services to support implementation of the regulations.
 - The OAFCh believes each proposed regulation must be amended to improve understanding and compliance. This is outlined in our member briefing note.
 - The MCSCS is releasing a survey in April to: gather information on the current state of fire services in Ontario; understand the current landscape of training, certification, risk



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assessment and public reporting within Ontario's fire service; and identify challenges fire services may face in meeting the new regulatory requirements in order to inform the ministry's implementation plan.

- The OAFIC urges all municipal fire services to respond to the MCSCS survey, highlighting funding requirements to support regulation implementation. Be specific in your responses.
- Member questions about the draft regulations should be directed to the OAFIC office.

- **Mandatory Training and Certification**

- For decades, the OAFIC has continually worked to enhance and professionalize the Ontario fire service through our leadership in implementing the Company Officer Standards (1993), and transitioning the Ontario fire service to NFPA Standards (2012).
- The OAFIC has remained adamant that the OFMEM must ensure timely access to free, online testing to support certification, otherwise success/compliance is not likely. The Technical Table was assured these resources will be available to support implementation if the regulations go forward.
- The OAFIC believes that the mandatory training and certification regulation should not come into force until at least July 1, 2019, preferably January 1, 2020, to allow municipal councils and their fire services to make all the necessary training funding decisions. Extended commencement deadlines were discussed at the Technical Table, with the government not yet making a decision on final timing.

- **Grandfathering**

- Grandfathering will be re-opened using the same requirements as the previous program. [Review the 2013/14 eligibility criteria.](#)
- This will include the 81 departments that did not take advantage of the initial opportunity, along with all other departments for omissions.
- The OAFIC encourages any fire department who did not take advantage of grandfathering in 2013/14, which has been re-opened to specifically support implementation of the regulations, to use this option to certify its fire service personnel.
- If someone has been grandfathered prior to the regulation coming into force, and moves to another department, their grandfathering is still valid. Grandfathering is assigned to the individual, so it would remain with them even if they move to a new department.
- All documentation related to the applications should be provided to the OFMEM in one complete package/submission per fire department by September 30, 2018.
- The grandfathering application form, and information about eligibility, is available on the homepage of the OAFIC website.

- **Community Risk Assessments**

- The OAFIC supports the improved standardization of the Community Risk Assessment process, as outlined in the draft regulation; however, we believe that amendments are required to improve understanding and compliance. These recommended changes are outlined in our briefing note.
- This draft regulation received the smallest amount of feedback from fire departments and municipalities.



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- **Public Reporting**

- The OAFIC supports the intention of the proposed regulation, and its focus on standardizing data reporting, improving transparency and accountability, and clarifying definitions.
- However, we believe that an overhaul of Ontario's Standard Incident Reporting (SIR) framework is required before any legislation on public reporting, such as this, be implemented.
- The government has re-engaged the OAFIC to review our 13 recommendations on how to improve the SIR system, which were tabled by the association's SIR Working Group. The [list of recommendations](#) is available on the OAFIC website under "Member Resources."
- We are waiting to hear about next steps in terms of discussing our proposed SIR system improvements with the government.

- **Firefighter-Paramedic Pilots**

- As part of Bill 160, the *Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act*, the government is planning to pilot a model where firefighters, who are currently certified as paramedics, are allowed to perform medical interventions when responding to emergency calls as firefighters.
- Bill 160 received Royal Assent in December 2017.
- The MOHLTC is still developing the pilot models. No pilot sites have been selected, and timing of pilot rollout is still to be determined.
- When the government speaks about the firefighter-paramedic role, they are referring to a trained, qualified paramedic who demonstrates currency of skillset (i.e. AEMCA certified, delegated medical acts by a Base Hospital, and employed by an ambulance service operator).
- OAFIC does not have a position on this initiative, as too little is known about project timing, deployment or funding.
- However, we released a [member briefing note](#) on April 3 that includes a summary of the government's engagement with stakeholders, including the OAFIC, to date. It discusses the issues OAFIC has raised with the model, as well as information on next steps for this work.

- **Next-Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)**

- In the coming years, telecommunications networks across Canada, including the networks used to make 9-1-1 calls, will continue to transition to Internet Protocol (IP) technology. This will enable Canadians to access new, enhanced and innovative 9-1-1 services with IP-based capabilities, referred to as Next-Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) services.
- While NG9-1-1 offers new ways to access emergency services from multiple devices and communications platforms, it also prompts huge risks, substantial budget pressures. Estimates from the United States and Canada indicate that NG9-1-1 can result in increases in resourcing (i.e. people, equipment, facility space) of up to 30 per cent.



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- Emergency response providers cannot wait for NG9-1-1 to come before we start planning and identifying issues with this technology. Coordinated planning among the tri-services will be absolutely critical if we are to effectively handle our accountabilities under the NG9-1-1 architecture.
- The OAFCA NG9-1-1 [member briefing note](#), released March 5, outlines the work-to-date to support implementation of NG9-1-1 across Canada, highlighting concerns of first responder agencies regarding implementation.
- Currently, there is no implementation date set for NG-9-1-1 at the PSAP level. We expect more information to be released in summer 2018.
- **Residential Sprinklers**
 - A Private Member's Bill is currently being tabled that seeks to give municipalities the authority to implement a municipal by-law that mandates residential sprinklers in new homes.
 - The Bill was prompted after a series of fatal fires took the lives of eight adults and children only weeks into 2018.
 - One of our members championed residential sprinklers as a key solution to prevent further fire tragedies, securing support from a Durham region MPP.
 - The MPP has subsequently taken the lead in developing a Private Member's Bill about residential sprinklers.
 - While the Bill is being reviewed before it is presented to the House (date to be determined), the OAFCA has been approached to provide comment on the benefits of residential sprinklers.
 - Our key messages will be used as evidence to support the Bill. We believe residential sprinklers should remain a public safety priority for all political parties because of the immense public and firefighter health and safety advantages.
 - We will keep the membership updated about the status of the Bill.
 - Review OAFCA's [sprinkler position paper](#), released February 15, on the website under "Member Resources."
- **OFMEM Training Resources**
 - The OAFCA, in agreement with the OFMEM, is pleased to host OFMEM/Academic Standards & Evaluation (AS&E) educational training/learning materials, curriculum forms and practical skill sheets as a one-stop, accessible location for all fire services in Ontario.
 - To access the materials, visit the OAFCA website. Select "Education" from the top, drop-down menu, and scroll to select "OFMEM Resources."
 - The actual courseware and lesson plans required to accompany the curriculum and skill sheets reside with the publishers and course designers, such as IFSTA, Jones and Bartlett and the Ontario Fire College.
 - Always check/register with AS&E before delivering a course in order to confirm the course has been approved by AS&E for testing and certification.



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- Note that the OAFCh is not responsible for the content provided. If you have any questions, please contact the OFMEM.

- **Other Member Resources**

- Ensuring our members have the tools they need to operate and lead a modern fire service is vitally important to the OAFCh. All the resources are available on the OAFCh website under "Member Resources."
- We've developed a comprehensive [Social Media Tips and Trends](#) fact sheet that explains why departments should leverage digital technology in their operations, offering templates and resources to get you started on drafting an internal social media policy, procedure and strategy.
- The Centre Wellington Fire and Rescue Department has shared with us the process they used to obtain a Special Flight Operations Certificate (SFOC) from Transport Canada to fly an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)/drone. [Review their process](#) to learn how your department can achieve similar credentials.
- In terms of existing resources, we know invoicing for services provided on provincial highways continues to be a challenge for departments, so we sought out and received an [updated protocol](#) from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on how to complete the invoicing process.

5. **OFMEM Report** – Rick Finnemore, Fire Protection Advisor, Advice and Assistance Unit- Field Advisory Unit, presented updates from OFMEM. The following is a brief outline of his presentation.

- **Staffing**

- Job Ad for new Deputy Fire Marshal posted March 27, 2018 – Closed April 19, 2018
- Job Ads for program Coordinator Accreditation & Certification – three permanent positions, closing on April 20
- North & Unincorporated Unit: Manager Wayne Bennett has retired; Job Ad for Operations Manager - FAS North and FN, closing on April 30
- A/Manager, Academic Standards and Evaluation: Lyle Quan joined the OFMEM as A/Manager AS&E on April 3
- A/Academic Manager OFC: Jeff Atwell
- Posting for OFC Principal, now closed; A/Principal: Guy Degagne
- Posting for Manager, Public Safety Education, now closed; A/Manager, Public Education: Ryan Betts
- A/Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal (Competition for permanent ADFM has closed) currently A/ADFM Art Booth
- Art Booth is also managing Inspection & Enforcement Unit and Monitor Audit Review Unit and now also Northern and Unincorporated Unit
- Posting for Program Specialist, Midhurst, now closed
- Advice & Assistance Unit: A/Unit Manager: Mike Potvin (FIS Manager):
 - Contract extended until September 2018



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- We still have many vacancies within FAS – OFMEM management is taking a hard look at where they are needed
- Recent recruitment of three new Fire Investigators
- Feb. 1, 2018 a job ad for Chief Emergency Management Office was posted on the Ontario Public Service Careers website – posting closed on Feb. 15, 2018.
- **Ontario Fire College Update**
 - Grandfathering announcement on March 23, 2018 – Original cut-off date of December 31, 2015 retained as per ProBoard and IFSAC requirements (i.e. not an OFMEM decision); AS&E is preparing updated Q&As for fire service.
 - A copy of the new 2018-19 Ontario Fire College calendar and application form for courses between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 is available.
 - Repairs to Burn Building, Upgrades to residents bedrooms, New front entrance, New pumper and command vehicle
 - For course vacancies: i.e. number of available seats – check on OFC website – Regional and online training is being developed and expanded, based on various concentrations of area training needs;
 - Geographic-location of adjunct instructors;
 - New Learning Hubs (e.g. Grimsby and now Clarence- Rockland);
 - Brian Hunt, retired Deputy Fire Chief with the North Bay Fire Department, joined the OFC instructional team on a five-month temporary assignment.
- **Communiqués**
 - 2018-05: Communiqué about the Constable Joe MacDonald Public Safety Officers' Survivors Scholarship Fund
 - 2018-04: Ontario Regulation 108/18 filed on March 19 and comes into force on July 1, 2018 – amends the OFC (O. Reg, 213/07) with regards to the checking, inspection, and testing of standpipe and hose systems
 - 2018-03: Emergency Power System Maintenance under 6.7 of Div. B of the Fire Code (importance of complying with inspection, testing and maintenance requirements)
 - 2018-02: NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualification
 - 2018-01: 2017 Communiqué list.
 - 2017-06: Municipal Establishing and Regulating By-Laws
 - Review annually; ensure level of services – in accordance with the current needs & circumstances of their municipality.
 - 2017-05: Sprinkler & Fire Protection Installer Trade: Further Clarifications
 - (Some exemptions may exist for employees of industrial plants who work on in-house fire protection systems – Q's to the Ontario College of Trades)
- **Expansion of the Ontario Naloxone Program to Fire Services**
 - Chief Coroner for Ontario to announce the expansion of the Ontario Naloxone Program to police and fire services.



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- Eligible fire services include all fulltime; composite, volunteer, and northern fire departments as well as First Nation fire services. Fire services will be eligible to receive two naloxone kits for each of their vehicles for use in their role as first responders. (Link embedded in letter form F/M)
- For further information on the ONP you can visit the MOHLTC website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-naloxone-kits-free>
- To obtain a list of Public Health Unit locations please visit the MOHLTC website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>
- **Public Education Matters**
 - Issue 167: “Making Your Smoke @ Carbon Monoxide Alarm Program Work” Training Session
 - Issue 166: Reminder deadline is April 30 to nominate individuals or organizations for the 2018 Fire Safety Awards
 - Issue 164: Reminder Training Session for March 27.
 - Issue 162: Now accepting nominations for the 2018 Fire Safety Awards.
 - Issue 161: Registration for Training Session (March 27, 2018 : Training: “Making Your Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Program Work”
 - Issue 160 Training: “Making Your Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Program Work: Ways to implement a Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Program in Your Community”
 - Issue 160: Save the Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018
 - Issue 159: 2018 Has Started Tragically: Now is the time to Redouble Pub. Ed efforts
 - Issue 158: Wildfire Community Preparedness Day – May 05, 2018...
 - Issue 157: Recent tragedy reinforces need for smoke alarms...
 - Issue 156: OFMEM Public Fire Safety Educational Materials
 - Issue 155: New Holiday Fire Safety Resources Available
 - Issue 154: Kidde Recall of Fire Extinguisher
 - Issue 153: Beat the Silent Killer
- **Provincial Mutual Aid Plan**
 - 2018 Fire Coordinator’s Symposium was held in January 29th, 2018
 - Finalization of the plan will soon be completed – New version submitted to legal department
- **Fire Safety Education Planning:** Fire Chief’s, Public Educators Conference held this week in Toronto.
- **Workshops & Seminars** (Tawnya Roberts for additional information – (613)-570-8296)
 - Fire Safety Inspection Order Seminar (On-Going): Strategies to enhance fire safety in V.O. occupancies
 - Fire Safety Planning Seminar (On-Going): Comprehensive understanding of the application of the Ontario Fire Code Section 2.8 for all occupancies required to have a fire safety plan an emphasis on V.O. occupancies.



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- Part 1 Tickets and Entry Warrants (On-Going): It is a one day workshop split into two topics- Part 1 Tickets and Entry Warrants.
- *Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection & Emergency Management*: Essentials Seminars (John Doucet for additional information – (705-)-279-4551). Looking at revising the Essentials seminar.
 - Note: If you would like to add your municipality to the potential Essential's host list, you can do so by using the Advice and Assistance Unit Email: OFMEM-FAS-AA@ontario.ca
- Total fatal fires from January 1 to April 19 for the years 2017 and 2018 were reviewed.

6. Roundtable Discussion –

- Orangeville FD (Chief Morden) – New pumper/tanker from Dependable; delivery in August. Hiring eight additional full-time firefighters. Reviewing options for a new fire station.
- Guelph FD (Chief Osborne) – Blue emergency lights installed on apparatus. Guelph Police were advised.
- Guelph FD (DC Goode) – Hiring this fall, SCOTT SCBA recall in effect to replace main console. Exploring joint purchase for extrication equipment. Looking into cost recovery of minor medical calls like lift assists.
- Mapleton FD (Chief Richardson) – Tendered for new rescue was \$80,000 more than the same rescue ordered a few years ago.
- Minto FD (Chief Harrow) – Everything is good; have hired new Assistant Chief. Will be stepping down from the OAFB board position.
- Puslinch FD (Chief Gomes) – Just recertified Tanker Shuttle Accreditation with FUSS \$150; had to update some paper work, but no actual testing was required. Call for further information. Looking for information on satellite fire stations.
- Wilmot FD (Chief Leeson) – New 2,500 gallon tanker to be at OAFB Trade Show. Approx. cost \$300,000. Looking into joint purchase for SCBA compressor.
- Perth West/East FD (Chief Hunter) – Two 1800 gallon tanker for Milverton Station. Perth East 2500 gallon tanker \$640,000. Perth East & \$ 471,000 for Perth West Tankers. Call volume up recently.
- North Perth (Chief Edward Smith) – Moved into new fire station in March; looking to purchase new SCBA compressor.
- Cambridge FD (Deputy Brian Arnold) would like to be notified when OFMEM are conducting an investigation in their area. USAR Level 2 teams should receive same or similar funding as level 1 teams. New Deputy Chief Damond Jamieson has been hired. Fire station 6 complete by September. Regional voice radio system – discussion on fleet mapping, standardization and replacing CAD network. Working with Kitchener and Waterloo police. Reviewing mutual Aid agreements.
- North Dumfries FD (Chief Robert Shantz) – New tanker 2500 gallon purchased for \$330,000.
- Woolwich FD (Chief Dale Martin) – New fire station in Breslau will be shared with ambulance. Having concerns with trucks built by Asphodel now being finished at Dependable. Hopefully ready for OAFB Trade Show.



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- Erin FD (Jim Sawkins) – Working with an inherited budget. Concerns with previous chief's order of an Asphodel fire truck. Township wants research into purchasing used fire trucks. New fire apparatus prices have gone up considerably
- Centre Wellington Fire & Rescue (Chief Patton) – Two new deputies in place. Interviewing for FPO. Will have two part-time training officers per station. Will be hiring 12 additional volunteer firefighters, with emphasis on daytime availability and diversity.
- Note: Grand Valley FD (Chief Kevin McNeilly) – Absent from the meeting due to a family matter would like to remind every one of the antique fire truck muster in Grand Valley August 4. Please call Kevin for more details.

7. **Next Meeting** – To be determined. If your department would like to host, please connect with PAC Leader Brad Patton.

8. **Adjournment** –

- John Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:37am.
- It was seconded by Steven Goode.