



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

In-person, Exeter Fire Station
Tuesday, April 10, 2018
7:00pm

Participants: Dan Robinson-South Bruce Peninsula, Andrew Baird-South Huron, Jeff Musser-South Huron, Chuck Lobsinger-South Bruce, Steve Gardiner-Goderich, Marty Bedard-Huron East, David Renner-Central Huron, David Long-Bluewater(Hensall), Jeff Denys-Bluewater(Brucefield), Darrell DeJong-Bluewater(Brucefield), Dave Erb-Bluewater(Zurich), Rick Arnel-Essex (O AFC)

Guests: None

Minute Taker: Mike Givens

1. **Welcome** – Chief Givens welcomed all the attendees and thanked Chief Baird for hosting
2. **Agenda Additions** – None
3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – None
4. **O AFC Update (Executive Vice President, Chief Rick Arnel) –**
 - **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.



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

- It should be noted that the OAFC 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 OAFC office.
- We also recently added the following sessions on Friday May, 4:
 - An OAFC 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 OAFC 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 OAFC 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.
 - OAFC is represented at the Table by President Hernen and Executive Vice President Arnel. Other OAFC 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 OAFC 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 OAFC released a briefing note on February 7 about the proposed regulations on mandatory training and certification, as well as community risk assessments to assist OAFC 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 OAFC 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 OAFC website.
 - The OAFC believes that specialized funding must be provided to all fire services to support implementation of the regulations.



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

- 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 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 OAFCH 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 OAFCH office.
- **Mandatory Training and Certification**
 - For decades, the OAFCH 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 OAFCH 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 OAFCH 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 OAFCH 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 OAFCH website.
- **Community Risk Assessments**
 - The OAFCH supports the improved standardization of the Community Risk Assessment process, as outlined in the draft regulation; however, we believe that amendments are



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

- 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.
 - **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



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

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.
- 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 OAFc 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 OAFc 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 OAFc's [sprinkler position paper](#), released February 15, on the website under "Member Resources."

- **OFMEM Training Resources**

- The OAFc, 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.



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

- To access the materials, visit the OAFCh 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.
- 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. New Business/Roundtable Discussion –

- Rick Arnel described a costing model he developed on what it would cost Essex to train a firefighter to NFPA 1001 I&II, 1002, 1021 and 1041. (attachment)
- All departments represented had very intense discussion on the impact to the small rural fire department with the new pending legislation (cost, implementation, availability of training, recruitment and retention).

6. **Next Meeting** – To be determined by the PAC Leader, but the group is targeting October 2018.

Mike Givens adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.