



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Zone 5 Meeting Minutes

In-person, Eastern Ontario Emergency Training Academy, Norwood
Friday, February 9, 2018
9:00am

Participants: Christopher Baughman, Mike Bekking, Tim Blake, Steve Brockbank, Tony Brownson, Ted Bryan, Richard Caddick, Ray Haines, Pat Hoover, Gord Jopling, Jesse Lambe, Reno Levesque, Derrick Little, Scott Manlow, Allen Mann, Don Mitchell, Darryl Payne, Chuck Pederson, Ron Raymer, Robert Rutter, Brian Sears, Daniel Smith, Chris Snetsinger, C. Ryan Edgar, Mike Robinson, Bill Balfour, Mike Vilneff, Mike Cavanagh, Gene Thompson, Angela Moore, Dan Koroscil

Minute Taker: Chad Brown

1. **Welcome** – Chief Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting, declaring the purpose of the meeting was a follow-up on his commitment to Zone 5, as well as to discuss the draft fire service regulations (i.e. what they mean and how they affect departments).
2. **Introductions** – New members were introduced. Chief Bryan, OAFC Board Member, began discussion on draft regulations.
3. **Additions to the Agenda** – None
4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – None
5. **Draft Regulation: Firefighter Training and Certification** –
 - The OAFC briefing note on the draft regulations was reviewed.
 - It was noted that the regulation needs to be amended under “Intern Firefighter” to allow on-the-job skill development for all positions.
 - It was suggested that item 3(b) should be replaced so Firefighter 1 can be done in two years. This doesn’t affect full-time fire departments, but is a volunteer issue. No practical component, so on the job learning is necessary.
 - Status of firefighters was reviewed.
 - Can get certification before being hired.
 - From Jan 1, 2019, you retain the position you are in.
 - You would not be able to advance your career unless you certify to the new position. Without grandfathering, a firefighter would have to start at Firefighter I & II.
 - It was discussed that grandfathering in 2014 means you can move forward, but you are not certified; you can certify to level of grandfathering or grandfathering is the prerequisite for the next level of certification.
 - It was noted that the lapse from 2014 to Jan 1, 2019 may create a gap in Officers; some may have to complete Firefighter I & II to obtain prerequisite for Fire Officer (FO) I. Those with grandfathering as Firefighter I and II have the prerequisite for FO I.



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- It was noted that intern firefighters can operate while taking the rest of their training. If they were not grandfathered, there is another round of grandfathering for 82 departments. Grandfathering requirements will remain the same and only those who qualified in 2014 will be considered. Selective audits were done last time, but in this round, documentation may have to be produced. The province is open to reviewing individual cases of those who were not approved for grandfathering so anyone with a special case should contact the OFMEM as soon as possible.
- If not grandfathered, individuals must be certified to Firefighter II to advance to Officer.
- It was noted that 3 (a) reads: "Internship program approved by the Fire Marshal."
 - Departments operating without the NFPA certification or the paperwork and skill assessments may incur liability, but if they can prove all the training they've had, they may be okay. But, they should have gone for grandfathering.
- It was noted that the government has not yet committed to financial assistance.
- It was noted that a survey may be sent out by the OFMEM to collect data regarding the status of fire services in Ontario. Everyone is encouraged all to fill out the survey. If there is going to be a financial impact, we need to know how much it will be.
- Whether or not firefighters could challenge the certification exam is unknown; no one has asked them.
- Chief Rutter estimated it would cost \$170,000 for 24 students in Firefighter I & II program, or \$7,000 per firefighter. He was encouraged to submit this concern.
- The group anticipates the problem will be two, three or four years from now. They will need funding. It was suggested that the limit in 3(b) to be extended to 36 or 48 months.
- It was discussed that costs may come from those required to write certification tests and skills evaluation. If departments are training, they could be expected to train to NFPA, but the reality is they spend all their time on required training for driving, PTSD, harassment, etc. We can train in-house.
- **Question:** Departments with lieutenants or captains who were never grandfathered - can they move up?
 - **Answer:** In 2019 they would have to certify which includes obtaining any prerequisite courses.
- **Question:** Does everyone have to be certified under NFPA 1006?
 - **Answer:** We should ask for at least another year. The Timeline is not adequate.
- It was noted that Fire Officer Level 1 course is 10 days, but it used to be 50 weeks.
- Table 1 on Mandatory Certification was reviewed, showing the NFPA standards for each service. It was recommended that this table needs to have the ability to upgrade the standards, editions, levels, etc. and there is a two-year delay for printing, etc. This is something departments are encouraged to ask for in their response to the Ministry.
- Since it is an election year, it was suggested that the January 1, 2019 deadline be extended, as municipalities and departments need to gear up and have it in budget.
- It was noted that January 1, 2020 is not a realistic date for certification to a level of technical rescue as the manuals, training programs and exams are not ready.
- It was shared that NFPA 1006 has eight accredited levels. A new textbook is out. The old OFM certification will be used, but this was not eligible for grandfathering.



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- **Question:** I have 32 individuals who are not certified on technical rescue, even though they took the OFM courses, but they have been doing it for years. Their training was approved by the Ministry of Labour, but this pre-dated NFPA 1006. Will need certification stamp by Jan 2020. Will departments be dropping their services?
 - **Answer:** We need more time and more funding – this needs to go to the review committee.
- Concerns were raised that this is not sustainable for smaller communities. Volunteer departments will be eroded. In the far north, Training to Firefighter I has been trialed, and was successful. Volunteer departments in small town Ontario have trained to what they need (i.e. defensive exterior attack, not all components of Firefighter I). They are not represented at the table.
- Attendees were encouraged to go to the OAFCH website for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and ask questions.
- It was noted that questions should go to the AHJ, as the OAFCH is not the conduit.

6. Draft Regulation: Community Risk Assessments –

- The OAFCH's proposed amendments to this draft regulation were reviewed:
 - In Schedule 1, Mandatory Profiles, there is a reference to building stock profile. We should use MPAC data, so everyone has the same source. There are limitation when using MPAC data so access may be limited to MPAC classification code and address.
 - State of compliance with the Fire Code can change, so that should be removed from the Building Stock Profile. Municipalities are only compelled to complete inspection upon complaint or request so building compliance may not be known.
 - Schedule 1, Number 6 should be removed because EMS is under the upper-tier governments, Fire is under the lower-tiers, and they do not share response times. This is not doable in rural Ontario.
 - Number 7, community services profile: If an Emergency Plan has been activated, that will supersede other entities' service capabilities.
 - Number 9.2, under Past loss and event history profile: This asks for "comparison of the community's experience with the experiences of comparable communities" for past emergency response experience. This is not attainable. Reporting to provincial trends would be more appropriate.
- The importance of a standardized, fillable form was noted – especially for rural and volunteer departments.
- It was discussed that the regulation states the risk assessment should be done every five years, or updated annual as needed.
- It was shared that this regulation received the most consensus at the Technical Table.
- The group agreed on the "Three As to Achieve Success:" achievable, affordable and available in all of Ontario.
- It was noted that the Fire Marshal has been quiet on the regulations.
- The group was encouraged to submit their own comments, in addition to the recommendations put forth by the OAFCH.



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- The group was reminded that many day-to-day things like pub education and in-service inspections are covered in Firefighter I & II.
- The group agreed the regulations need explanatory notes.

7. **Next Meeting** – To be determined by the PAC Leader.

8. **Adjournment** – 12:15pm