

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
June 21-22, 2011**

Meeting held in Collingwood

Commencing at noon on Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Present:

Ellard Beaven	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Matt Pegg	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA
Darrell Ellwood	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Darren Storey	FFAO
Mike Vilneff	O AFC
Wayne Sutherland	Public Services Health & Safety Association (Observer)
Karen Hanna	MOL Facilitator

1. Introduction of New Committee Member

Cathy introduced a new member to the Section 21 Committee. Mark Pankhurst, Fire Chief of the City of Kawartha Lakes, has joined the Committee representing the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

2. Review of Minutes from April 14-15, 2011

The minutes were accepted as written.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the minutes and distribute for posting on the websites.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Matt reported that the next meeting of the NFPA 1851 technical committee will be in July 2011. The next edition of NFPA 1851 will be the 2013 edition.

4. Review of Comments on Draft GN # 6-33 Hazards Created by Abandoned Buildings

The Committee reviewed the comments received and finalized the draft GN.

ACTION: Karen to take the finalized GN through the MOL approvals process.

5. Review of Comments on GN # 6-34 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems

The Committee reviewed the comments received and finalized the draft GN. The GN was developed in consultation with the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Electrical Safety Authority, both of which provided a significant amount of technical content.

ACTION: Karen to take the finalized GN through the MOL approvals process.

6. Review of Comments on GN # 6-35 Wind Turbines

There were no comments received by the Committee on this GN; the draft GN was finalized.

ACTION: Karen to take the finalized GN through the MOL approvals process.

7. Revision of GN # 7-1 Health and Safety During Training Exercises

The Committee discussed the proposed revisions to the GN. The name of the GN was changed to GN # 7-1 Health and Safety During Practical Training Sessions. The revised GN now includes a sample of the Training Safety Plan used for practical training sessions at the Ontario Fire College.

ACTION: Karen to place the revised GN in the manual.

8. Revision to GN # 6-5 Confined Space Rescue

Karen presented proposed amendments to the GN due to the consolidation of the confined spaces requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, O. Reg. 632/05, effective July 1, 2011. The Committee agreed with the proposed amendments to the GN.

ACTION: Karen to place the revised GN in the manual.

9. Review of GN # 2-6 Emergency Preparedness

Mike and Rod conducted a review of GN # 2-6 Emergency Preparedness, which has been in the manual since October 2002. The Committee decided to rescind GN # 2-6 because the requirements regarding municipal emergency planning are addressed by O. Reg. 380/04 Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

ACTION: Karen to watermark GN # 2-6 as rescinded and reference O. Reg. 380/04 in the manual.

10. McMaster University Off Gasing Study

For the information of the Committee, Andy distributed a report prepared for Toronto Fire Services by Lorraine Shaw and Don Shaw of McMaster University's Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory. The report pertained to an evaluation of thermal degradation products generated during a live fire training exercise.

11. MTO Book 7 Update

Andy reported to the Committee about a meeting that occurred in May that he attended as a representative of the Section 21 Committee. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is in the process of looking at unscheduled events on highways, particularly with respect to tow truck drivers, as well as blocker trucks, in order to make possible amendments to Book 7. Andy noted that Toronto Fire Services uses blocker trucks on the 400 series of highways, but it is only available for 45 minute blocks of time. Karen reported that her colleague, Joe O'Grady, sits on this MTO Committee. The Committee indicated that it was interested in following any changes to Book 7 that may affect the fire service.

12. Revision of GN # 4-11 Fall Protection from Elevating Devices

Matt requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: Karen to include this item on the agenda for the October meeting.

13. Use of Thermal Imaging Cameras

Andy provided the Committee with an information article pertaining to the prevention of deaths and injuries of firefighters working above fire-damaged floors. The article included some useful information on the use and limitations of thermal imaging cameras. The Committee decided to add this information to GN # 6-18 Unprotected Lightweight Building Construction, and to draft GN # 6-33 Hazards Created by Abandoned Buildings.

ACTION: Karen to place the revised GN # 6-18 in the manual and will add information

to GN # 6-33 (which will proceed through MOL approvals).

14. **OFM Executive Development Seminars 2011**

Ed reported to the Committee that the theme for the seminars this year at the Ontario Fire College will be health and safety. The OFC seminars are a great means of conveying the message of firefighter health and safety. Ed would like to have a greater presence of members of the Section 21 Committee at this year's seminars. He proposed that the Executive Development Seminars, on September 21 and November 30, be attended by as many members of the Section 21 Committee as possible. He proposed that there be an enhanced and expanded half day session on each date dedicated to the Section 21 Committee, with Karen and the Co-Chairs providing the Section 21 update, followed by a facilitated session with the Section 21 Committee members.

ACTION: Committee members to inform Ed as to whether they are able to attend on September 21 and November 30.

15. **Modification of ATVs and UTVs**

Karen updated the Committee on the MOL expectations with respect to the modification of equipment, such as ATVs and UTVs. The Committee was reminded that GN # 6-7 Driving Skills for Emergency Apparatus Response was updated in March 2011 to include ATVs and UTVs, as many fire departments are currently using these vehicles. However, if the equipment is modified in any way (e.g. to pull a patient litter), the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) should be contacted to determine the feasibility of the design change and approval of the modification should be received in writing. If the OEM will not approve the design change, an engineer would have to be engaged to approve it. Karen indicated that this is a standard expectation that MOL would have for any piece of equipment that is being modified, ATVs and UTVs are no different.

16. **Electric Cars**

Darrell indicated that he had a report on electric vehicles that he would share with the Committee. The Committee discussed the challenges that electric cars pose in extrication situations. Although the Section 21 manual includes GN # 6-19 Hybrid Vehicle Safety Issues, it has not been significantly amended since it became effective in April 2003. The Committee decided that GN # 6-19 should be revised and discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Darrell and Mark to work on a revision to GN # 6-19 for presentation at the next meeting.

17. **You Tube Video**

Matt showed the Committee a video from You Tube that shows a training facility with locations in Ontario and the United States. There were several safety issues that the Committee identified in the video. Karen reported that she will follow up with the appropriate MOL staff regarding the safety concerns identified in the video. Ed will also speak with the appropriate OFM staff.

ACTION: Karen and Ed to speak with the appropriate staff in their respective organizations.

18. **O AFC AMES**

Matt reported that the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs held their 59th Annual Meeting and Educational Seminars in May. Matt indicated that Terry Allen was the recipient of the Alf Stone Award and Karen was the recipient of the President's Award. The awards were presented to Terry and Karen at the O AFC President's Banquet on May 4, 2011.

19. MOL Report

Karen reported that she conducted a presentation to the Hamilton Township Mutual Aid Meeting in Harwood on April 28th with Mike in attendance. The purpose of the presentation was to provide an MOL and Section 21 update.

Bill 160, which amended the Occupational Health and Safety Act, received Royal Assent on June 1, 2011. Karen reported that MOL is in the process of implementing Bill 160. Many of the elements of Bill 160 will become effective by April 1, 2012.

Karen reported that the Chief Prevention Officer is expected to be named soon. More information will be posted on the MOL website as it becomes available.

Karen reported that the recent Divisional Court decision regarding reporting requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, particularly Section 51 (1), upheld the previous decision by the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which upheld the order of a Ministry of Labour inspector. Karen stressed that the reporting requirements of the OHS Act remained unchanged and were not impacted by the Divisional Court decision.

Next Meeting Date

October 13-14, 2011, in Toronto