

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
October 13 - 14, 2011**

Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto

Commencing at noon on October 13, 2011

Present:

Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Matt Pegg	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Darrell Ellwood	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC
John Mavrinc	OPFFA
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)
Scott Campbell	MOL Facilitator (Acting)
Karen Hanna	MOL Facilitator

Guests:

Ellard Beaven	OPFFA
Joe Watkins	Public Services Health and Safety Association
John Parish	Public Services Health and Safety Association

1. Introduction of New Committee Member and New Committee Co-Chairs

John Mavrinc was introduced as new member to the Section 21 Committee representing the OPFFA. John is firefighter in the City of Timmins.

Kevin Ashfield becomes the new Labour Co-Chair, replacing Ellard Beaven. Matt Pegg is also stepping down from the Committee and indicated that Andy Kostiuk would assume the Management Co-Chair position.

2. Review of Minutes from June 21-22, 2011

The minutes were accepted as written.

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

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Follow up regarding the You Tube video introduced by Matt Pegg at the April meeting was discussed and any further discussion should occur within the organizations represented by the committee.

The following new guidance notes have received Ministry of Labour approval and will be added to the manual this month:

- GN # 6-33 Hazards Created by Abandoned Buildings
- GN # 6-34 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems
- GN # 6-35 Wind Turbines

ACTION: Scott to add the Guidance Notes to manual and distribute.

4. **Presentation from Public Services Health and Safety Association**

Joe Watkins, Director – Provincial Programs provided an update of the Public Services Health and Safety Association's recent activities and future plans.

PSHSA Update:

Under the amalgamation of the former health and safety associations, the newly created PSHSA has a much larger mandate that encompasses schools, health care, and government. However, the Emergency Services Division continues to support the community as before with added capability to conduct health and safety audits, and access hygiene and ergonomic resources.

As of April 1, 2012, PSHSA will move to the Ministry of Labour's Prevention Branch as legislated in the recent Bill 160 amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The PSHSA CEO is meeting with the newly appointed Chief Prevention Officer to discuss the future direction.

Health and Safety Certification Training:

PSHSA continues to develop health and safety certification training with an emphasis on the emergency services community and specific to Fire, Police and EMS. These programs have been successful because they use examples specific to the sector. Future development is awaiting direction from the upcoming transition from the WSIB to MOL.

Request to the Section 21 Committee

PSHSA has requested that John Parrish join Wayne Sutherland with observer status on the committee. The committee discussed the request and decided that any changes to the Terms of Reference at this point would be inappropriate due to the review of Section 21 Committees being conducted as a result of the Dean Panel recommendations.

5. **GN # 6-9 Hazardous Materials Response**

The Committee discussed the application of NFPA 472, 2008 edition with regard to GN #6-9 Hazardous Materials Response and GN # 6-15 Responding to CBRN Terrorism Incidents. An issue concerning multiple jurisdictional responsibilities was raised as the fire service has typically been responsible for life safety. However, police services now have taken a more active role in responses due to the concern of potential criminal aspects of CBRN events. The discussion concluded that the training for all responders needs to be consistent.

The other issue discussed was the differences in competencies between the 2002 and 2008 editions of NFPA 472. Depending on the training provider, different competencies are being taught. An important note was the discontinuation of the awareness level competencies found in the NFPA 472, 2008 edition.

ACTION: Andy and Ed to revise GN #6-9 and GN #6-15.

6. Revision to GN # 4-11 Fall Protection from Elevating Devices

Matt introduced proposed amendments to GN # 4-11 to address common questions from stakeholder and raise awareness of the fall protection devices used for different purposes. The most prominent issue discussed was the overloading of Aerials / Platforms by using of fall arrest equipment where a travel restricting device would be more appropriate. Matt indicated that Denys Prevost, Fire Chief from Welland Fire and Emergency Services, assisted in the drafting of the proposed amendments.

ACTION: Scott to send revised GN out for comment.

7. Revision to GN # 6-14 Safe Roof Operations

Mike introduced proposed amendments to GN # 6-14 to address safe roof operations. The discussions focused on the fact that the use of fall protection devices is a problem during suppression activities. The fire ground focus should be based on professional judgment to assess conditions and define tactics to be used.

ACTION: Scott to send revised GN out for comment.

8. Revision to GN # 6-19 Hybrid Vehicle Safety Issues

Darrell and Mark requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting as they were still researching the proposed amendments.

ACTION: Darrell and Mark to bring the item back for discussion at the next meeting.

9. Ontario Fire College Seminar Updates

Ed reported on the Executive Development Seminar held on September 21, 2011, and thanked the Section 21 members that were able to attend and for the presentation that was conducted by Karen, Andy and Kevin. Ed also reported on the Training Officer Seminar and on the Section 21 presentation that Karen, Matt and Kevin conducted. The next Executive Development Seminar is scheduled for November 30, 2011; it is hoped that there many members of the Section 21 Committee will be able to attend. Ed indicated that the Section 21 Committee has a standing invitation at the fall seminars at the Ontario Fire College.

10. Ministry of Transportation Committee – Book 7

Motor vehicle collisions on highways and the use of blocker trucks has been a long standing issue among first responders (Fire, Police and EMS). The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Book 7 for Temporary Conditions does address the unique issues of first responders. Andy has been involved as the representative of the Fire Service Section 21 Committee and Carl Pearson from the O.P.P. has been asked by the Police Section 21 Committee to represent the Policing community at MTO meetings regarding temporary conditions on roadways. Joe O'Grady, MOL Facilitator of the EMS Subcommittee is representing MOL at the MTO meetings. Another meeting will be scheduled some time in November 2011 to further discuss these issues.

11. OPFFA Health & Safety Seminar

Kevin reported that the OPFFA is hosting its annual Health & Safety Seminar at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto from February 5 – 9, 2012. Karen will be speaking at the seminar on the work of the Section 21 Committee and the issue of multi-site agreements.

12. Additional Guidance Notes for Review and Renewal

There are a number of Guidance Notes that the Committee has not had the opportunity to review and update. Discussion took place regarding Guidance Notes that the Committee considered to be a priority to review and update; some of these Guidance Notes have not been reviewed since 2001.

a. Combining GN # 4-1, GN # 4-3, GN # 4-5 and GN # 4-12

The Committee discussed the merits of combining the four personal protective equipment Guidance Notes into one and to reference NFPA 1971, 2007 edition, now that O. Reg. 714/94 Firefighters - Protective Equipment regulation references this standard. Matt also reported that the Technical Committee on NFPA 1971 has completed work with the 2012 edition of the standard. Matt has already submitted a question to the Technical Committee as to whether the 2012 edition of the standard is considered equivalent to the requirements for bunker gear in the 2007 edition. Matt will apprise the Committee of the answer when received from the Technical Committee. Andy will also ask a Toronto Fire Services engineer to conduct a review of the 2007 and 2012 editions of NFPA 1971 to determine if there is equivalence between the two editions of the standard.

ACTION: Andy to request a review of the 2007 and 2012 editions by the TFS engineer.

ACTION: Mike will examine the combination of the four personal protective equipment Guidance Notes into a GN.

b. GN # 1-6 Inspection of Chains and Extrication Tools

ACTION: Rod and Darren to review.

c. GN # 6-8 Aerial Ladder Operations During Lightning Storms

ACTION: Andy to review.

d. GN # 6-6 Flashover

ACTION: Andy and Ed to review and rewrite.

13. MOL Report

Scott reported that MOL has posted on its website revisions to the Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Guide to Joint Health and Safety Committees.

Upcoming Safe@Work Ontario Initiatives were discussed including PPE, Racking and Dive Safety.

14. Other Business

The Committee awarded Matt Pegg and Ellard Beaven each with the Fire Service Section 21 Committee award to recognize their service to firefighter safety in the province. Both Co-Chairs thanked the Committee members for their support during their many years on the Committee. Together, with the support of the Committee, the firefighter regulatory amendments were achieved and came into effect on January 1, 2011. Matt and Ellard stated that although their membership on the Committee is ending, their commitment to firefighter health and safety remains.

Next Meeting Date:

January 19-20, 2011, in Toronto