

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
November 29-30, 2012**

Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto

Commencing at noon on November 29, 2012

Present:

Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Doug Outtrim	OFM
John Mavrinac	OPFFA
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Mike Vilneff	O AFC
Jeff Topliffe	OPFFA
Warren McGillivary	OPFFA
Denys Prevost	O AFC
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Wayne Sutherland	Public Services Health & Safety Association (Observer)
Joe O’Grady	MOL Facilitator

Special Guests

George Gritzotis – MOL Chief Prevention Officer
Guy Degangne – Academic Manager OFC
Vivien Wharton-Szatan – Provincial Coordinator – MOL Industrial Program

Regrets:

Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Darren Storey	FFAO
Terry Gervais	O AFC

The Committee wishes to acknowledge that Flame awards were presented at this meeting to Gerry Pedwell of the OPFFA and Karen Hanna of the MOL to thank them for their outstanding and professional service to the Section 21 Committee.

Gerry served the Committee over a ten year period. His personal commitment and dedicated efforts to further health and safety for Ontario firefighters has been admirable. As well, his passion to ensure the administration of respiratory protection programs for firefighters is also deeply appreciated. The Committee thanked Gerry for his many contributions to the Section 21 Committee throughout his career, offered congratulations on his selection for the Patrick J. De Fazio Award in 2011, and congratulated him on his pending retirement.

Karen took over as facilitator in October of 2004 and helped steer the Committee until her final meeting in January of 2012. Her dedication and professionalism were sincerely

appreciated by the Committee and acknowledged in 2011 when she was presented with the OAFSC President's Award for her work with the Section 21. The Committee thanked Karen for her commitment to the fire services and wished her well in her new position as Manager of Special Projects in the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the MOL.

1. Special visit from George Gritziotis – Chief Prevention Officer – MOL

Fire Section 21 Committee Overview Presentation

Committee members introduced themselves to George Gritziotis, Chief Prevention Officer, MOL. The MOL facilitator, Joe presented an overview of the Section 21 Committee, its mandate, membership, advisories and guidance notes produced to date.

Chief Prevention Officer Update

The CPO provided an overview of Bill 160 and role of the MOL in transitioning prevention activities from the WSIB. The Prevention council announced members in August and their first meeting will be September 28, 2012.

The goal is to strengthen the prevention focus and get system partners on the same page for OH&S. The CPO wants to establish a meeting for the co-chairs of the existing section 21 committees. Committees will also be established to look at the issues for small business and vulnerable workers. The CPO is leading the development of an integrated health and safety strategy which is to be delivered to the Minister by December 21, 2012. MOL Prevention Office will provide information for stakeholder feedback on the integrated strategy on the MOL website.

OH&S Prevention and Partnership Discussion

Training and Standards: What is the role of the prevention division with respect to training and standards? The CPO explained they are looking at H&S as an integral part of curriculum. Prevention will also be establishing standards for training. Workplaces will be expected to measure their existing training programs against the minimum standards.

Data access: MOL Prevention is negotiating with WSIB on data access. Focus for the H&S system will be on leading and lagging indicators. Members spoke to some of the issues with obtaining data for fire services. It is difficult to get high resolution of data for schedule 2 employers.

MOL Prevention contest- MOL prevention is launching a video contest in schools.

Culture of Health and Safety- The members discussed the current culture in fire services and the need to continue promote a health and safety culture.

2. Discussion on Tri County Mayors Delegation:

The committee discussed the concerns of the delegation and the draft response recommendations to the Minister. Consensus was reached on the recommendations which will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration.

3. Presentation: Dangers of Hydrogen Cyanide to fire fighters : Steve Jones - Burlington

An informative presentation on the potential risk and operational considerations related to hydrogen cyanide was presented by Capt Jones. The committee agreed to assign this topic for a draft guidance note:

Action: Andy and Jeff to begin work on this draft

4. Review of Draft Minutes from September 24-25, 2012

Minutes accepted as read.

Action: Joe to send out for distribution

5. Business Arising from the Minutes - none

6. Balaclavas – Wayne Sutherland

A discussion was held regarding the care, use and limitations of this gear. Questions regarding the lifespan and inspection details and frequency were raised.

Action: Jeff and Mike to look at PPE notes (4-5, 4-8) in terms of enhancing inspection guidance detail

7. Ventilation: question to committee – Glen McNeil web inquiry

Committee consensus was that this issue is covered under guidance note 6-26

Action: Kevin to respond

8. Review of GN # 1-6 Inspection of Chains and Extrication Tools as Heavy Hydraulics & Attachments and Winches -Rod/Darren

Discussion revolved around “securement”, and issues of hydraulic vs electric equipment and the scope “complete range of extrication tools”

Action: Rod and Warren to try combining Rods draft with the existing note

9. Traditional Surveys & Preplanning – potential note, update from Doug

10. Diesel Exhaust – John M.

John noted an update to the status as a potential carcinogen of diesel exhaust on the World Health Organization website dated Jun 2012.

Action: John will amend the existing note for review by the committee

11. Hoarding – John M.

John brought to the attention of the committee an article in the Jan/Feb NFPA Journal regarding potential hazards related to the practice of “hoarding” in occupancies. Doug, Mike and Wayne added support based on their awareness of issues, incidents and other information sources (Fire Engineering).

Action: John will initiate a draft note on this topic with support from Doug, Mike, and Wayne.

12. Report on Revised GN # 4-11- Fall Protection from Elevating Devices – committee feedback -Denys/Joe

Denys provided a more detailed review of his draft revisions to the committee on this topic including not just the appropriate selection and use of fall protection equipment and its integration with other fire fighter gear but with the factors that employers may need to consider in the design specifications of equipment during the purchasing process.

Action: Joe to continue with the review/approval process

13. Review of GN #4 -9 Respiratory Protection Program and CSA Z 94.4-11 – Committee to review hygiene comments

Committee consensus was to adopt comments from MOL hygiene and include related reference to CAN/CGSB/CSA-Z1610 in GN – 6-15 Response to CBRN. Some questions were raised as to the application of Reg.833 – Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents

Action: GN 4-9 to go for approval, Joe to provide an opportunity for a hygiene update presentation on the application of Reg.833 at a future meeting tbd.

14. MOL report – Joe -

Prevention division updates are available at:

Prevention | Ontario Ministry of Labour

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/prevention/index.php>

Stay tuned in December for the first edition of Health & Safety At Work TODAY, the Ministry of Labour's health and safety newsletter.

Formerly Safe At Work Ontario TODAY, it's the same publication that you've come to know — it will be enhanced to include the ministry's new workplace injury prevention mandate. As you know, we are in a transition period. Earlier this year the prevention mandate was transferred from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board following the recommendations of the Dean Panel report.

We have been working with the newly formed Prevention Council over the past few months. The Council is well into discussions on priorities for an integrated occupational health and safety strategy. This year's consultation on strategic priorities will build on, and be integrated into, the annual ministry *Safe At Work Ontario* discussions to begin early in 2013.

We look forward to your participation in the consultation on the first-ever integrated strategy. The information we gather during these consultations will help direct prevention and enforcement activities so we can help make workplaces healthier and safer.

If you're not yet a subscriber, we encourage you to sign up. Four times a year, you'll get the latest news about our strategy for workplace injury prevention and for health and safety enforcement, reports on workplace inspection blitzes, information on new workplace health and safety "tools," and more — all delivered directly to your email inbox.

We hope you will enjoy this inaugural issue of Health & Safety At Work TODAY.

Next Meeting Dates:

Proposed:

Jan 24/25 / April 18/19 / Sept 26/27 / Dec 5/6