

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
April 18-19, 2013**

Meeting held at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, Gerrard St, Toronto.

Commencing at noon on Thursday April 18, 2013

Present:

Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Doug Outtrim	OFM
John Mavrinc	OPFFA
Mike Vilneff	O AFC
Jeff Topliffe	OPFFA
Warren McGillivray	OPFFA
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Mark Pankhurst	AMO

Joe O’Grady MOL Facilitator

Special Guests:

Deputy Chief Rick Monkman – Barrie FS
Brian Lewis – Director, Strategy and Integration Branch, Prevention Division, MOL
Marc Cousineau – Provincial Hygienist, Operations Division, MOL

Regrets:

Wayne Sutherland	Public Services Health & Safety Association (Observer)
Darren Storey	FFAO
Denys Prevost	O AFC
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Terry Gervais	O AFC

1. Review of Draft Minutes from February 13-14, 2013

Minutes accepted as read.

Action: Joe to finalize the minutes and distribute for posting on the websites.

2. Business arising from the minutes - none.

3. Review of the Fire Services Manual: Forward section – Andy

In light of the past years activity the committee requested Joe to review the forward, especially the description of the use of guidance notes vs the legal disclaimer to tie in with the “Enforcement of Fire Fighter Guidance Notes” in the Section 21 Manual.

Action: Joe to review and report back in September.

4. Challenges Presented During Ice Rescue : A presentation by Deputy Chief Rick Monkman – Barrie FS

- ☐ Deputy Chief Monkman delivered a very informative presentation on the experiences of Barrie FS Lake Simcoe ice rescue emergency operation that occurred on March 9, 2012. The call came in as “20 trapped on an ice flow, approx. 1km off shore” . Agencies dispatched included, Oro-Medonte Fire, Barrie Fire, OPP and Simcoe County Paramedic Services. The operation was made extremely difficult due to deteriorating ice flow conditions (travelled over 5km in 90 min) and rough waters. The rescue evolved into a “surf water” rescue, which raised several challenges including the compatibility of radio frequencies used, as well as the different levels of expertise of the responding agencies and the types of equipment, procedures (including helicopter operations) and training that is needed for such events to protect the safety of the rescuers as well as the victims.
- ☐ In light of this presentation the committee agreed to review GN #6-3, Water and Ice Rescue.

Action: Jeff and John to begin a review of this note and report back in September

5. Review of Guidance Note Tracking Sheet – Andy, Kevin

On review of previous minutes and committee member discussions it was noted that there are several guidance notes in the process of formatting and approvals, and a few back items that need updating.

Action: Joe to provide an update on these items for the September meeting

6. GN's #4-5 & 4-8 revised (4-1) inspection review – Mike/Jeff

After some discussion the committee agreed that #4-5 will be covered in the consolidation of # 4-1, and that 4-8, and 4-2 will remain as separate notes. Flash hood inspection is covered in #4-8, which will now be forwarded for approvals. GN #4-1 will now also be forwarded for approvals.

Action: Joe to reformat and forward GN'S 4-8 and 4-1 for MOL approvals.

7. Review of HCN draft GN

This note topic is under discussion in many circles of the fire services. This note was put on hold at the request of the co-chairs and to be put forward to the September agenda for discussion.

8. Responding to Scenes of Violence – draft GN – Andy

The proposed new GN was reviewed against existing GN 6-13. No improvements required. This note cancelled.

9. Potential hazards presented by chemical suicides – draft GN – Andy/Kevin

This note will require more information, and revised to include recommendations for decontamination.

10. MOL Prevention Update: Brian Lewis, Director – Strategy and Integration Branch

Brian presented on the Ministry of Labour consultations on the development of a province-wide integrated occupational health and safety strategy, the first of its kind for Ontario.

This strategy will provide a clear vision to guide Ontario's occupational health and safety system, and workplaces. It will also help shape operational plans and programs for the ministry and its partners in the years ahead.

The strategy will focus on issues such as:

- addressing the needs of vulnerable workers
- supporting small businesses
- high-hazard activities
- effective support for workplace parties

The consultations will cover the entire range of occupational health and safety, from prevention to compliance and enforcement. The feedback received will help in the development of the strategy. Ultimately, the final strategy document will guide the planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of occupational health and safety programs and services in Ontario.

11. Discussion: Hygiene (ppe) guidance notes in progress (including GN 4-9 Respiratory Protection, with Marc Cousineau – MOL Provincial Hygienist

Marc was introduced to the committee members and the committee shared many of their experiences working in the fire services. Marc offered that fire fighter personal protective equipment is the last line of defence for acute and chronic injuries and great care should be taken during the review and updating of the guidance notes currently under review. He also stressed the importance of a proper fit for respiratory protection and the importance of proper fit during use in the field, and of proper testing and equipment maintenance. Marc will be offering assistance to Joe as the hygiene related notes in progress are being revised.

12. MOL Report – Joe

*In early May, many across the country will celebrate North American Occupational Safety & Health Week. Its aim is to focus the attention of workplaces and the public on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community. **The success of NAOSH Week** is rooted in a community-based approach. Across the country, NAOSH Week events and activities are coordinated by local, provincial and/or regional committees, comprised primarily of volunteers, who share a focus and vision of safer workplaces and communities. Partnerships with government, business, suppliers, CSSE Chapters, community health organizations and other safety groups provide the support, resources and network necessary to manage the NAOSH Week plans.*

What's New?

The ministry has launched a new TTY access number (text telephone) at the Contact Centre: 1-855-653-9260. One more way to contact us.

[Learn More >](#)

The ministry has issued a new guideline for the live performance industry regarding working at heights. This guideline outlines the relevant provisions in regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and describes best practices, procedures and equipment for live performance.

[Learn More >](#)

The new Ontario government has introduced legislation to protect the jobs of working men and women in the province who need to care for seriously ill or injured loved ones, or deal with a critically ill child or with a crime-related loss or disappearance of a child.

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Next Meeting Dates:

Proposed:

Sept 26/27 / Dec 5/6