

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee  
(Section 21 Committee)\*  
FINAL MINUTES  
February 13-14, 2013**

**Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto**

**Commencing at noon on February 13, 2013**

**Present:**

Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Doug Outtrim	OFM
John Mavrinas	OPFFA
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Mike Vilneff	O AFC
Jeff Topliffe	OPFFA
Warren McGillivray	OPFFA
Denys Prevost	O AFC
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Terry Gervais	O AFC
Mark Pankhurst	AMO

Joe O’Grady                      MOL Facilitator

**Regrets:**

Wayne Sutherland	Public Services Health & Safety Association (Observer)
Darren Storey	FFAO

**1. Review of Draft Minutes from November 29-30, 2012**

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. Draft GN- HCN – Andy and Jeff**

Andy and Jeff presented their draft for discussion. There were some questions around the proper decontamination procedures (i.e.: pressure from and proximity to fans used to facilitate blow off or considerations for the use of wet decon procedures vs absorption rates through the skin). It was consensus to reformat the note and send it out for comment. It was also suggested GN 6-12 should be reviewed to determine if a revision should be considered.

**Actions:** Doug to investigate decontamination issues and Joe to reformat note and send out for comment and review GN 6-12.

#### **4. Review of GN #4-6 – Fire Fighter Helmets – Andy**

The question was raised as to the qualifications or training required for a person to adequately inspect helmets and whether the manufacturers recommendations for service should be added to the elements and criteria that should be looked at to determine its condition.

**Action:** Joe to coordinate with Mike and the consolidation of PPE notes (GN 4-1) which is ongoing. (See also agenda item #6)

#### **5. Traditional Surveys & Preplanning GN Draft – Doug**

Doug presented a draft note entitled “Pre-Planning/Tactical Surveys” discussing the risks posed at emergency scenes and the challenges faced by incident commanders who must assess risk and make quick decisions. Lack of information, and/or misinformation, is an expected condition for first arriving crews. Civilians reporting emergencies are often unable to provide accurate details pertinent to sizing up the situation. Discussion revolved around challenges to obtaining more detailed information available through formal pre-plans, fire safety plans, and contact with occupants and owners to assist with the most critical information about occupancy, building construction, special hazards, and water supply. Consensus was this may be too onerous in many situations; Toronto has over 30,000 buildings, what approach could be used (by-laws?), and how the administration of information could be facilitated.

This note is put on hold at this time.

#### **6. Balaclavas – GN 4-5 & 4-8 inspection review - Mike/Jeff/Wayne**

The concern raised here was that current guidance on the inspection of protective gear does not specifically address balaclavas. There was some discussion around the referencing of manufacturers recommendations on the care and limitations of the gear and seeking out existing programs as a sample.

**Action:** Jeff and Mike to look at GN’s 4-5, 4-8, and 4-1 together and table for the next meeting.

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

This updated note was reviewed and some minor edits were made. Consensus was it is ready to go out for comment.

**Action:** Joe to reformat and send out for comment.

#### **8. Customization/modification of Flash Hoods – Mike**

A concern has been brought to our attention that there may be aftermarket customization and modifications being done to flashhoods which may include embroidery that may not meet with manufacturers standards or approval.

Committee consensus was for the representative associations to communicate this concern to their members. Manufacturer’s requirements should be consulted with regard to maintaining this equipment in good condition. Maintaining equipment in good condition is a requirement of the OHS, Section 25(1)(b).

## **9. Hoarding – John M.**

John presented this new draft to the committee on the potential concerns for firefighters on this issue. Some discussion and minor edits were made.

**Action:** Joe to format the note and send out for comment.

## **10. Diesel Exhaust – John M.**

This note was revised with regard to the status of diesel exhaust as recognized by the World Health Organization. Revised note to go for comment.

**Action:** Joe to format this note and send out for comment.

## **11. Potential hazards presented by chemical suicides – Andy**

Recent events in Barrie and York region involving potential chemical based suicide attempts have been brought to the attention of the committee. It was the consensus of the committee to produce a guidance note for information and awareness purposes and as a resource to the field.

**Action:** Andy and Kevin to work on a draft for the April meeting.

## **12. Tire pyrolysis – Andy**

The committee was asked to discuss the merits of producing a guidance note on this topic. It was consensus at this time that the information contained in the Draft 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Electrical Safety Handbook for First Responders, section 4.2.3.4 contains sufficient information on this subject and so a note will not be pushed at this time.

## **13. Health effects and pregnant firefighters – Andy**

A question from a fire service has asked if the committee has a position on fire fighting and the health effects of pregnant fire fighters due to the concern to protect the health of the unborn child and the fire fighter. There is no guidance that the committee has on this issue. It was acknowledged that Municipalities as employers through their human resource departments should have policies and procedures in place to deal with a variety of medically related accommodation scenarios including pregnant workers based on their individual needs established under medical consultation. Andy will respond to the question.

## **14. How to prepare for violent incidents? – Andy**

This question on the best practices that should be recognized by firefighters was raised to the committee, based on the January 2013 report by “National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)” – Firefighter Life Safety Initiative 12 Final Report.

Firefighter Life Safety Initiative 12 (FLSI 12) states that “*National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.*” In the narrative section supporting inclusion of FLSI 12, the Firefighter Life Safety Summit Initial Report (April 14, 2004) acknowledges the risk to firefighters when responding to violent incidents, specifically citing “the increasing exposure of firefighters to violent crimes and situations, up to and including terrorist attacks.”

**Action:** Andy to continue researching this topic.

## **15. IAFF RIT Instructional Program – Presentation by Geoff Boisseau – Local 3888**

Master Instructor Geoff Boisseau gave an awareness presentation on the IAFF RIT Program, covering pre-planning, sizeup, reading smoke, crew continuity, and disengagement criteria. Geoff indicated that this course is generally designed to follow the Section 21 Guidance Notes including GN #6-11 Rapid Intervention

Teams (Rescue), and includes an online 8 hour session as well as a Train the Trainer module. Geoff also indicated this training will be available in Ontario beginning in 2013.

#### **16. PSHSA – Wayne Sutherland**

The committee discussed the role and participation of the Public Services Health and Safety Association with the pending retirement of Wayne Sutherland who has been participating on the committee as an invited guest of the Co-chairs. It was consensus that in consideration of the ongoing consultations with the MOL Prevention Division that no changes to the committee's terms of reference should be made at this time.

#### **17. MOL Report – Joe**

Joe informed the group that the new Minister of Labour is Yasir Naqvi who was first elected to represent the riding of Ottawa Centre in 2007, and he was re-elected in 2011. He has served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Education.

*MOL Website Posting Update:*

*Two Task Groups Named to Study Prevention Among Vulnerable Workers, Small Business*

- Issued: December 19, 2012

Ontario Chief Prevention Officer George Gritziotis has named the members of two task groups who will consult and provide advice about vulnerable workers and about small business. The creation of the task groups is part of the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety.

Each task group has 12 members: six who are worker representatives and six who are employer representatives. They are expected to study the issues, gather information and report back over a period of not more than 30 months.

Also please note: The Ministry of Labour has recently revised its:

- [A Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)

And:

[A Guide for Joint Health and Safety Committees and Health and Safety Representatives in the Workplace](#)

This page includes a link to the revised *Multi-Workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee Guidance* document.

This Guidance was developed by the Ministry of Labour (MOL) to assist the workplace parties on matters relating to the establishment, operation and maintenance of Multi-workplace Joint Health and Safety Committees.

This document contains definitions, questions and answers regarding Multi-workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) arrangements, provisions, and implementation procedures, pursuant to subsections 9(3.1), 9(3.2) and 9(3.3) of the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) (OHSA), and the exercise of that authority by the Minister or his or her delegate. The revised guides now reflect the most recent changes to the OHSA, resulting from the amendments from Bill 160, [Occupational Health and Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011](#).

These guides are not intended to replace the OHSA and the regulations. You should always refer to the official version of the [legislation](#) to determine your legal rights and duties.

Prevention division updates are available at:

Prevention | Ontario Ministry of Labour

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

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Next Meeting Dates:

**Proposed:**

**April 18/19   / Sept 26/27   / Dec 5/6**