

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)
Final Minutes
December 4- 5, 2014**

Meeting held at the IHSA Voyager Training Centre, 21Voyager Court S, Etobicoke:

Commencing at noon on Thursday December 4, 2014

Present:

John Mavrinac OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair

Andy Kostiuk OAFCA – Committee Co-Chair

Mike Vilneff OAFCA

Jeff Topliffe OPFFA

Warren McGillivray OPFFA

Mark Pankhurst AMO

Rod McEachern FFAO

Denys Prevost OAFCA

Terry Gervais OAFCA

Jim Jessop OFM

Jeff Attwell OFM

Joe O'Grady MOL Facilitator

Regrets:

Cathy Hoffman AMO

Special Guests:

Alexis Silverman, RN, CIC, Chair - Ontario Association of Designated Officers

Bruce Donig – (District 2VP) Executive Board Liaison - OPFFA

MOL Prevention Division – Richard Burton – Manager: Training and Safety Programs

1. Review of Draft Minutes from September 25/26, 2014

Minutes accepted as read

2. Business arising from the minutes:

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Report of Co-Chairs: MOL Prevention Division – November Stakeholder Meeting

Andy and John reported on their experience attending the “new” MOL Semi-annual Stakeholder meeting held in November. The intent of the meeting was to provide stakeholders the opportunity to discuss employment standards and occupational health and safety topics directly with senior ministry executives in order to seek ways to advance safe, fair and harmonious workplace practices in Ontario.

The day consisted of updates on the latest ministry initiatives and ongoing regulatory consultations including;

- high visibility safety apparel for mines and mining plants
- material handling, ground control (stability of excavations in mines), machine guarding and excavation (in construction) blitz activities
- the proposal to amend selected provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) that set out duties related to the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), and
- the proposal to extend noise protection requirements to all Ontario workplaces under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) that are not currently covered by noise requirements in the regulations (examples of workplaces affected by this proposal include: health care facilities, schools, farming operations, fire services, police services and amusement parks).

The Chairs noted the focus on the mining and construction sectors and the consolidation of some requirements (i.e.: noise) to apply more broadly. They also had the opportunity to ask MOL senior staff if more could be done to provide statistical information to inform the committee’s desire for a more evidence based approach to the development of guidance materials.

(For more information go to: [Health and Safety at Work Today](#))

Action: Joe to follow up on the availability of MOL statistics for the next meeting.

4. Prevention Officer safety/Fire Services Woman’s Group – Discussion on feedback.

Andy and Terry met with the Prevention group to discuss non-emergency situations and how their concerns could be addressed by the committee. The OAFG members offered to be a conduit for concerns from this group and bring any issues of concern to the committee for discussion.

John met with and spoke to the Women’s Group and reported that at present they do not have any concerns of note, however they are now aware they can bring issues to the committee for discussion.

Action: Andy/John/ Terry to act as committee contacts to these organizations.

5. Discussion: Cancer screening information

The committee discussed the need for firefighters to be screened earlier and more often than the general public because of their higher risks for cancer. It was felt that thorough and confidential firefighter physical exams and screening tests for prevention and early detection of specific cancers is essential. The committee expressed a desire to recommended comprehensive exams that should be provided to primary care physicians to follow.

Action: Terry and Jeff to work on pre-screening guidance for the next meeting.

6. Heat/Cold stress draft GN

After discussion the consensus was for members to review the current appendix D2 for recommendations as to whether this information should be updated; and if it should appear as a guidance note or remain as an appendix item.

Action: Note there was also discussion regarding health and wellness topics and whether new guidance should appear as appendices or should a new section of the manual be created for these issues. This item moves forward to next meeting for discussion.

7. Rapid Fire Progression GN7-6 – draft update

This draft was reviewed along with the revised draft of GN 6-6 (Hazardous Fire Conditions – previously “Flashover”). The committee also considered comments provided by stakeholders regarding recent research into fire dynamics in the course of firefighting and the importance understanding how fire suppression activities can influence a flow path that could result in rapid fire progression. Consensus was that the revised draft of GN 7-6 Rapid Fire Progression should replace previous GN6-6 “Flashover”, and that the revised draft of GN6-6 now Hazardous Fire Conditions should be the proposed new GN 7-6 due to it’s focus on the development of training for fire services.

Action: Joe to reformat these notes and move them forward for approval.

8. Simulated smoke - discussion

After discussion on this issue it was felt there still needs to be more conclusive information on which to base a guidance note.

Action: John to begin preparation of a draft note, and Warren will attempt to do more research to support the note; forward to next agenda for an update.

9. Training Tower GN review

Revisions were made to this note based on comments towards the building code and other notes that should be referenced. Consensus was to send note out for comment.

Action: Joe to revise and send out for comment.

10. CO2 Draft GN review

Background: In the past, CO₂ was typically delivered to businesses in pressurized cylinders however, recent practice increasingly involves using CO₂ Dewars to deliver large volumes of cryogenic liquefied gas. These Dewars may contain 160 liters of liquid CO₂. This means a full Dewar may contain enough CO₂ to inert the atmosphere in a fairly large area. They can be located either inside or outside the building.

Andy indicated that the Ontario Association of Fire Training Officers expressed the desire for this topic to be addressed as a guidance note.

Action: Andy to revise the draft for the next meeting in March.

11. Guest speaker – Alexis Silverman – Ontario Association of Designated Officers
Alexis presented a brief history reporting structures between Ontario’s emergency services and local public health units. She also communicated the goals of the OADO; to provide consistency between services in the prevention and mitigation of exposures; to increase worker and client safety; to advocate for standardized responses from public health units, and to advocate for changes to IPAC-related legislation that directly affects Emergency Service Workers.

Alexis also noted the “Personal Protection Strategy Model” and the Designated Officers’ Manual For Infection Prevention: Reducing the Risk for Front-Line Staff (which can be accessed from the OADO website): <http://oado.ca/>

The OADO can be contacted by:

- Twitter: @o_a_d_o
- Web: OADO.ca
- Email: oado.contact@gmail.com

Action: OADO may be consulted on infection prevention and control issues facing the committee.

12. JHSC Certification – MOL Prevention Division - discussion

The purpose of the session was to discuss with the committee implementation topics related to roll-out of the 2014 Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) Certification Standards. Topics Included:

- ✓ Sector-specific areas (i.e. consensus on list of common hazards)
- ✓ Proposed administrative framework of 10-6-2
- ✓ Transition
- ✓ One-time exemption to Refresher Training
- ✓ Exemptions to the minimum class size of 6 for face to face training
- ✓ Extensions to the 6-month period to complete Part One and Part Two
- ✓ eLearning Requirements

Action: A survey will be forwarded to committee members for completion by December 15.

13. Request: Consideration of province wide standard for notifications to the fire service of renewable and alternative electricity generation

After some discussion it was noted that there may be overlap with municipal requirements, the committee currently has GN# 6-34, regarding solar voltaic systems, and there may be some aspect of pre-planning that could be addressed.

Action: Mark, Rod, Denys, and Jeff to review GN 6-34, Andy to discuss with fire prevention and Jim will touch base with MMAH. This item will be forwarded to Mar 2015 for follow up.

14. Guidance notes review:

'OFS Section 21 Manual – 2014 Revision Assignments' was reviewed with the committee. This included; the current sections assigned to members; a last revised or status date for all guidance notes; and a review of notes in progress (new or revised) with committee, those out for comment, and those forwarded for MOL approvals. It was agreed this format will be used by the committee to track manual revisions going forward. It was recommended that notes going out for comment should also be forwarded out to stakeholders through the OFM Coordinators in an attempt to increase distribution and engagement. Jim will advise of agreement to this proposal asap.

MOL Update – Joe

The Ontario legislature has passed The Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act, 2014. The act will help protect vulnerable workers, including those who earn minimum wage, do temporary work, and work as temporary foreign workers.

[Learn More >](#)

Starting Oct. 29, Ontarians are able to take three new leaves of absences as Bill 21, the Employment Standards Amendment Act (Leaves to Help Families), 2014 has come into effect. The legislation allows caregivers to focus their attention on what matters most – providing care to their loved ones without fear of losing their jobs.

[Learn More >](#)

The Chief Prevention Officer has released the *Occupational Health and Safety in Ontario: 2013-14 Annual Report*, which highlights recent accomplishments of the occupational health and safety system. This is the first report written by the ministry involving all system partners, including the health and safety associations and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. The report shows recent successes and how system partners are working collaboratively to improve occupational health and safety in Ontario.

[Learn More >](#)

It's that time of the year: runny nose, nagging cough, annoying headache. But, it's also the time of year when the symptoms could be much more serious. From October to May, thousands of workers in Ontario become sick with flu viruses. Learn how to protect workers from the flu.

[Learn More >](#)

The latest edition of *Health & Safety at Work TODAY*, the ministry's main health and safety publication, is now available! Read about the latest health and safety initiatives, consultations, regulations, inspection blitzes, and prevention programs and products. This issue includes such features as a Q&A on the mandatory health and safety awareness training regulation and an article on protecting your workers from the flu. Subscribe and join more than 19,000 others across Ontario in keeping up-to-date with the latest ministry news and resources.

[Learn More >](#)

The ministry is proposing to amend selected provisions in the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulation, as a part of a broader national and international initiative to implement a world-wide system of classifying and providing information about hazardous workplace chemicals. The public is invited to provide written comments about the proposed changes.

[Learn More >](#)

The Ministry of Labour is proposing to extend noise protection requirements to all Ontario workplaces under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Examples of workplaces affected by this proposal include: health care facilities, schools, farming operations, fire services, police services and amusement parks. The ministry is seeking input on the proposed changes.

[Learn More >](#)

The ministry has issued a new alert that warns of electrical hazards during maintenance on a crane in any facility that operates two or more overhead cranes in the same crane way.

[Learn More >](#)

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Next Meeting Dates:

Proposed: March 5/6, June 18/19, Sept 24/25, and Dec 3/4 2015