

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
Section 21 Committee
Final Minutes
March 5-6, 2015**

Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management

25 Morton Shulman Avenue

Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Commencing at noon on Thursday March 5, 2015

Present:

John Mavrinc OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair

Andy Kostiuk OAFB – Committee Co-Chair

Mike Vilneff OAFB

Jeff Topliffe OPFFA

Warren McGillivary OPFFA

Mark Pankhurst AMO

Cathy Hoffman AMO

Rod McEachern FFAO

Jeri Ottley FFAO

Denys Prevost OAFB

Jeff Attwell OFMEM

Tim Metcalfe PSHSA

Joe O'Grady MOL Facilitator

Regrets:

Terry Gervais OAFB

Jim Jessop OFMEM

1. Review of Draft Minutes from December 4/5, 2014

Minutes accepted as read

2. Business arising from the minutes:

Comments received on guidance notes out for comment were reviewed by the committee.

Summary:

After consideration of comments received consensus was for Joe to forward the following notes for approval:

GN 1-2 - Vehicle Inspections and Maintenance Program

GN 1-8 - Safety Considerations for New Fire Apparatus

GN 3-4 - Radio Frequency Awareness

Regarding:

GN 1-9 – Cylinder Handling - Denys to review comments respecting references to the CSA Standard and respond to the committee.

GN 6-3 – Water Related Emergencies (previously Water and Ice Rescue) – Due to the number and detail of the comments received on this note the consensus was for committee members to review the comments more thoroughly and forward this item to the June agenda for discussion. Co-Chairs to seek technical assistance from the OFMEM.

3. GN on Fire Training Towers – The revised version of this note was discussed.

Action: Joe to send this note out for comment.

4. GN 7-6 Rapid Fire Progression / GN 6-6 Hazardous Fire Conditions:

Revisions were reviewed, consensus to forward for approvals.

Action: Joe to forward these notes for approval.

5. Discussion: New GN on CO2 Hazards:

The committee discussed the revised note and agreed some additional information related to awareness for firefighters of the related hazards, pre-planning, and operational considerations should be added.

Action: Andy and John to work on revising this guidance for the next meeting.

6. Ongoing concern related to the use of Artificial Smoke:

John provided an update on this issue noting that studies and testing methodologies are under review, and that more studies may be needed to help understand any potential risks related to these products.

Action: John/Warren will continue to monitor this issue for discussion of guidance related to awareness and hygiene practices June.

7. PSHSA – assistance with elevator training:

Tim was asked if he could approach PSHSA to see if they can assist with providing emergency evacuation training for fire services.

Action: Tim to follow up with PSHSA.

8. Solar Panels and notification update;

Andy noted that Toronto Fire is not currently notified of these installations.

Action: Andy and Mike to make further inquiries; forward to next agenda for an update.

9. Adult Immunization:

Andy presented a proposed draft on the topic of immunization containing general information on the subject referencing the Canadian Immunization Guide. Committee members noted that there are differing viewpoints on the topic and questioned how this information is best communicated to fire services.

Action: Cathy and John will do some more research and provide an update to the committee at the next meeting.

10. Review of Section 3: Andy

Summary; minor edits were accepted to GN 3-1; GN 3-2 no changes required; GN 3-3 - add reference to GN 6-12.

Action: GN# 3-1 and GN #3-3 to go forward for approval.

11. Discussion of distribution for “notes out for comment”

(Brought up at OPFFA H&S Seminar)

It was felt that the recent distribution of notes for comment through the OFMEM Fire Coordinators has effectively increased engagement of the fire services in providing comments to the committee for review.

Action: Committee will continue to monitor engagement. The Associations will further explore options related to their web postings and social media channels.

12. Pre-screening guidance - Jeff

Work is still in progress to develop guidance/recommendations on medical screening for fire services

Action: Forward to next agenda.

13. Discussion: training provider for fire services

Jeff presented a proposed draft on considerations for third party training companies. After some discussion it was noted that there should be a generic approach taken for all “specialist activities”.

Action: 1-Members are asked to review the draft for discussion in June. 2 – John and Cathy will review section 7 notes to assist help inform this discussion.

14. Discussion – Working at Heights Standard:

Members expressed concerns regarding “provider approvals” and how this would affect their ability to comply with provisions when/if requirements are expanded to include workers outside of construction projects.

Action: Members will continue to monitor Prevention Division announcements on this program.

15. New business: Two proposed notes were tabled.

1. Guidance on Crude Oil Railway Emergencies:

This note was proposed based on recent events and the increase in transport of crude through municipal areas in Ontario. This note contained recommendations for a strategic approach that includes pre-incident planning, preparedness, response, and training. This was seen to be an emergency planning issue.

2. Fire Prevention Officer/Inspector Accountability:

In the course of regular duties a Fire Prevention Officer/Inspector (FPO) may find themselves in challenging situations and locations. This note contained recommendations for employers to establish written policies and operational guidelines for the accountability of FPO's while they are involved in their duties outside the fire station.

Action: Comments to Warren, forward for discussion in June.

MOL Update – Joe

Joe provided a verbal discussion with members on the most frequently issued orders in this sector, and the hazards being addressed. Responding to requests from the committee for data from the MOL related to fire services Joe informed the members the Industrial Program is continuing to work with our data people to enhance the information available for release on MOL activities in this sector moving forward.

What's New

Starting February 20, 2015, there is no longer a ceiling on the amount of money employees can claim for wages owed. Employees also now have up to two years to recover those wages, under recent amendments to the Employment Standards Act, 2000. These changes are among the provisions of recently passed Bill 18, The Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act, 2014. These changes apply with respect to any unpaid wages that come due on, or after, February 20, 2015.

[Learn More >](#)

This spring, Ontario will launch public consultations on the changing nature of the modern workplace. The public consultations will focus on how the Labour Relations Act, 1995 and Employment Standards Act, 2000 could be amended to best protect workers while supporting businesses in our changing economy.

[Learn More >](#)

Ontario is targeting hazards involving slips, trips and falls at workplaces in the industrial sector in a six-week safety blitz. From February 2 to March 15, ministry inspectors are checking that employers are properly assessing and addressing hazards that could cause slips, trips or falls. They will visit a variety of workplaces, such as restaurants, stores, vehicle sales and service, and manufacturing plants.

[Learn More >](#)

Nearly one out of five injuries in Ontario workplaces are a result of slips, trips and falls. Learn what a Ministry of Labour inspector looks for when inspecting a commercial kitchen for these and other hazards.

[Watch The Video >](#)

As of April 1, 2015, certain workers will need to complete a working at heights training program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer before they can work at heights. Learn more about the requirements in a new fact sheet from the ministry.

[Learn More >](#)

In July and August 2014, Ministry of Labour inspectors conducted a blitz on fall hazards at construction sites. Inspectors checked for hazards involving a broad range of falls such as from ladders, elevating work platforms, suspended access equipment and structures, as well as falls from one level to another.

[Learn More >](#)

From September 15 to October 26, 2014, ministry inspectors conducted an enforcement blitz at workplaces in the industrial sector in Ontario. They checked for hazards involving material handling, which can lead to serious injuries or even death.

[Learn More >](#)

The ministry has issued a new alert about the potential for serious injuries if oxygen cylinder valves are opened unsafely. Opening the valve on a compressed oxygen cylinder or within an oxygen system too quickly can cause an explosion or fire, especially if there is contamination in the system.

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Next Meeting Dates:

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