

Meeting Minutes

Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee

(Section 21 Committee)

December 3, 2021

Meeting held on Zoom

Commencing at 8:30

Present:

Rob Grimwood	O AFC - Committee Co-Chair
John Mavrinac	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Aaron Burridge	O AFC
Tim Sparks	OPFFA
Victor Dillabaugh	OPFFA
Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Juanita Martin	MLTSD
Randy Narine	Volunteer firefighter
Ellard Beaven	O AFC
Dan Worrall	OPFFA
Doug Kellam	Volunteer firefighter
John Snider	Office of the Fire Marshal – Ontario Fire College (observer)
Tanya Morose	PSHSA (Facilitator)

Guest Presenters:

John McBeth	Office of the Fire Marshal (guest speaker)
Tim Beckett	Office of the Fire Marshal (guest speaker)

Greetings

R. Grimwood welcomed committee members and introduced guests.

Committee members congratulated O AFC 2022 President Deputy Chief R. Grimwood.

Office of the Fire Marshal Presentation: *Developing an Ontario-specific Model for Firefighter Certification*

J. McBeth, Director of Training and Certification and T. Beckett Deputy Fire Marshal

R. Grimwood provided introduction of guest speakers. OFMEM staff attended for the purpose of consultation on potential firefighter certification regulations. They provided a presentation and an opportunity for committee members to ask questions.

Review of Minutes from September 17, 2021 Meeting

The minutes from September 17, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted, there were no reported changes.

- **Action Item: T. Morose send September 2021 minutes to O AFC for posting on website.**

Guidance notes (Juanita Martin)

Action Item: J. Martin to review links for all guidance notes in cyclical review

Cyclical Review - Guidance Notes 6-6 to 6-12

Guidance Note 6-6 Rapid Fire Progression

- Add verbiage regarding review of training to ensure that it is current.
- Add language to provide theoretical and practical fire dynamics training.
- Need to consider health and safety of training officer who facilitates live fire training and their exposures.
- Change “Fire dynamics training” heading to “Fire dynamics (fire science) training”.
- Related: add reference to Cancer Prevention Checklist.

Guidance Note 6-7 Driving Skill for Emergency Apparatus Response

- Add boats to list of vehicles that may be used.
- Hazards: Add reference to unsafe operation can cause injury or death to members of the public.
- Action for employers: add reference to training drivers on vehicles that they are expected to operate.
- Considerations for training:
 - Add to theoretical training “other safety devices or speed reduction devices equipped on the apparatus”
 - Add to practical training: reference to signaler backing vehicles, and nighttime or low lighting conditions
- **Action Item: T. Morose to confirm low visibility language in Unplanned Events section of Book 7 and send to J. Martin.**

Guidance Note 6-8 – Firefighter for safety during lightning storms

- Actions for employers: add note that references current or impending lightning storms.
- Update link to CSA standard

Guidance Note 6-9 – Hazardous Materials/CBRNE Response

- Actions for employer: add consider inter-agency operability
- Add section: Considerations for CBRNE response that includes
 - Provide training to recognize differences between hazardous materials response and CBRNE response
 - Provide discrete or encrypted means to communicate with personnel during CBRNE instances.
- Link from chat: <https://www.argonelectronics.com/blog/what-is-the-difference-between-hazmat-and-cbrne>

Guidance Note 6-10 Traffic safety and control

- Add reference to coordination with signalers in training section
- Add reference to coordination with multi-agency response (other first responders, tow truck, etc.)
- Consider providing direct link to MTO Book 7 in the guidance note.
- Update link to CSA standard

Guidance Note 6-11 – Rapid Intervention Teams (Response)

- Add language under employer duties to train firefighters on RIT procedures and ensure competency in accordance with Guidance Note 7-4

- Concerns/hazard: add “disoriented or in an emergency situation” in addition to life in jeopardy, lost or trapped.
- Rapid Intervention Teams: second bullet under RIT team may be edited to “on-scene firefighters performing other functions, but ready to deploy immediately as RIT as necessary”
- Considerations for Operational Procedures:
 - Ensure language on need for RIT consistent with earlier in GN regarding firefighter who is disoriented or in emergency situation
 - Add language regarding post incident review and deployment of CISM following incident.
- Related: add reference to Guidance Note 7-4 and NFPA 1407

Guidance Note 6-12 Rehabilitation during Emergency Operations

- Employer action - add discuss interagency response with paramedic service
- Rehabilitation considerations
 - Add reference to appropriate decontamination of personnel prior to entering rehab area or eating or drinking.
 - The committee discussed requirements for medical monitoring and ensuring a competent person takes and interprets vital signs.
 - Add reference to air quality monitoring in rehab area
- Related: add reference to cancer prevention checklist and NFPA 1500

Workplace Violence and Harassment Draft Guidance Note

The committee reviewed the draft workplace violence and harassment guidance note and suggestions for additions were provided. J. Mavrincac to incorporate feedback from the committee and the draft guidance note will be sent out for comment.

- **Action Item: J. Mavrincac to update draft guidance note and send to OAFB for posting**
- **Action Item: T. Morose provide Guidance Note comment form to J. Mavrincac.**

6-1 Hygiene and Decontamination

The committee compared this guidance note to the cancer prevention checklist. The committee decided to keep Guidance Note 6-1 unchanged and separate from the Cancer Prevention Checklist as the fire service views the guidance note and checklist as separate items. The checklist can be used as an audit tool.

Technical Rescue Guidance Notes 6-3, 6-4 and 6-5

T. Sparks reviewed updated language in above guidance notes to ensure consistency. The committee thanks T. Sparks for his contributions, no changes suggested at this time. Committee agreed that Hazmat guidance note should be updated to ensure consistent language with the Technical Rescue Guidance notes. The committee agreed that 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-9 Guidance Notes should go out for comment due to language changes.

- **Action Item: J. Martin to review Hazmat/CBRNE guidance note to apply consistent language from these technical rescue guidance notes**
- **Action Item: J. Martin send updated guidance notes to OAFB for posting on website for comment.**

4-1 Guidance Note Discussion

R. Grimwood reports that there is no update at this time. Defer to next meeting.

Regulation Working Group

R. Grimwood reports that the Regulation Working Group will meet in new year and provide update at the first 2022 meeting.

Minister Response to Letters (J. Martin)

Currently awaiting response for all letters that were sent in March 2021

- Work on highways – public education
- PTSD prevention plans
- Line of duty deaths – coroner’s inquest

Minister McNaughton was invited to today’s meeting.

- **Action Item: C. Hoffman will connect with her contacts to reach out to Minister McNaughton for follow up**
- **Action Item: R. Grimwood to follow up with Minister McNaughton**

PFAS Discussion – Follow up to June presentation

The committee agreed to wait until new Provincial Hygienist is in place for discussion.

Structural Collapse Rescue Guidance Note Discussion

One comment received commending the committee for this guidance note.

- **Action: J. Martin to move GN through MLTSD approvals process.**

OAFC Member Update

R. Grimwood provided an update on OAFC committee positions, including representation on this committee. The OAFC Health and Safety Committee will recommend a successor to M. Vilneff to the OAFC Board of Directors. The OAFC board will make a recommendation to Minister McNaughton on new OAFC committee member in December 2021.

PSHSA Update

T. Morose provided the PSHSA update which is attached to the meeting invite.

- Workplace violence toolkits and supporting instructional webinars can be found at workplace-violence.ca
- IWH is completing an environmental scan of pain points, best practices, and challenges with PTSI prevention, treatment, and recovery. Please reach out to IWH to participate in a 60-minute interview and share with your contacts.
- Working for Workers Act received Royal Ascent this week. Of note, employers are required to develop a Right to Disconnect policy within 6 months of Royal Ascent and delivery drivers must be allowed to access washroom facilities at an establishment when making a delivery.
- Results of IWH study on face to face and synchronous online learning shared with committee.
- PSHSA is an Excellence Program provider. Schedule 1 and 2 firms are eligible to participate, and topics can be scoped to include the fire service only and not the entire municipality. The first cohort of firms have received rebates totaling \$946 753.87
- PSHSA will be developing a worker resilience eLearning program in the new year. Firms that are interested in being involved in piloting the new program should contact T. Morose to participate.
- Safety Plan Builder is available on MLTSD website.
- Ontario is investing in small business to increase access to Health and Safety Representative Training

2022 Meeting Dates

The committee will meet on the following dates in 2022.

- March 24 and 25, 2022
- June 9 and 10, 2022
- September 15 and 16, 2022
- December 1 and 2, 2022

The committee will plan to meet in person if it's permitted with MLTSD. Please note that to attend meetings at CHSI, venue attendees are required to be fully vaccinated. Hybrid meeting options are available for remote participation if needed.

New Business (All)

1. Virtual retirement party for K. Hanna in December. J. Martin will send the committee's appreciation and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.
2. Creating Guidance Note for Medical Surveillance
 - D. Worrell proposed a medical surveillance guidance note based on NFPA 1582 and elements of NFPA 1500. There have been advances in technology to allow early blood screening and detection of cancer. The committee wondered about the possibility of involvement of Minister Elliott regarding OHIP coverage for medical testing and surveillance for occupational exposures (e.g. metal toxicology blood test and audiometric testing).
 - **Action Item: D. Worrall and V. Dillabaugh draft guidance note.**
 - **Action Item: T. Morose to inquire with CREOD for contact to support D. Worrall and V. Dillabaugh with draft guidance note development**
3. Increasing use of Sea Cans for Live Fire
 - J. Snider brought the increasing use of Sea Cans for live fire training to the committee's attention. Many departments are purchasing used Sea Cans and using until it reaches end of life. Some are modified to include openings, stairs, doors, etc. Note that NFPA1402 Design of Live Fire Structures applies. Note that Sea Cans are engineered as structural; stacking and modifications may alter structural integrity. Note that if the structure is over 10m and occupied, then it becomes a building and Building Code applies and permits are required.
 - OFM technical services is working on this and OFM may provide an alert.
 - Committee discussed that there is a correct way to use Sea Cans to build live fire training structures, and it involves more than welding a few containers together.
 - J. Martin: Section 21 can put out a hazard alert. Any Section 21 alerts must go through MLTSD approvals process.
 - J. Snider: OFM can issue a safety warning
 - **Action Item: J. Snider will take a lead on follow up with OFM and will report back to committee.**
 - **Action Item: R. Narine to share details of Sea Can live fire training structure with J. Snider**

4. NFPA Live Fire Training Course

- Chief Training Officer at a Fire Service is retiring and, in the past, had taken a course on conducting live fire in accordance with NFPA Live Fire Training standards. The committee discussed that this course has not been offered in a while.
- R. Grimwood asked committee if Training Officers are trained to do live fire training? Committee discussed that if live fire training is being done, it needs to be done safely; this includes competency of facilitator, safety of structure and appropriate measures and procedures in place.
 - i. A. Burrige reports that OAFTO used to run Live Fire Training course.
 - ii. J. Snider reminds committee that Training Officer Two is required for live fire training.
- J. Snider reports this course cannot be accredited through ProBoard.

5. Committee's desire for WSIB data and analytics

- PSHSA is in discussion regarding WSIB data, statistics, and data analytics with all section 21 committees and PSHSA sector advisory committees. T. Morose asked the committee what they would like to learn from WSIB data. Does the committee have any questions to ask of WSIB or requests for analysis of 2020 data?
 - i. There is a desire for greater information on the economic impact of injuries. What is the cost to healthcare and what is the cost to the municipality for WSIB premiums for injuries and occupational fatalities?
 - 1. For a cancer death, what is the average cost based on age? E.g. What is cost to municipality of an "average" occupational cancer fatality at 20 years of age, 40 years of age, 60 years of age?
 - a. V. Dillbaugh notes that IAFF has data on occupational cancer types, screening, etc. The cost associated with Ontario claims is an important part of developing the business case for prevention efforts.
 - 2. What are the costs of claims by type? Many departments are having challenges with number and cost of mental health claims. Can greater detail be provided on experience of schedule 1 and schedule 2 firms for all types of injuries, including mental health claims?
 - ii. Greater detail on occupational cancer claims to guide the committee on developing Guidance Notes. What types of cancers are firefighters getting?

Meeting adjourned at 13:06

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