

Meeting Minutes

Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee (Section 21 Committee)

Thursday, April 24, 2025 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Friday, April 25, 2025 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

*Meeting Held In-Person in Chatham-Kent at the Civic Centre
315 King St W, Chatham-Kent Ontario N7M 1E9*

Attendance:

Rob Grimwood	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Dan Worrall	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Adam Neal	OPFFA
John Plater	OPFFA
Tim Sparks	OPFFA
Harry Baranik	O AFC
Jeff Kirk	O AFC
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Andrew King	Volunteer Firefighter
Doug Kellam	Volunteer Firefighter (Absent Day 1)
John Mcbeth	Office of the Fire Marshal (Observer)
Stephanie Maragna	MNR – Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES)
Jason Eyres	MNR – Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES)
Chris Boccinfuso	MLITSD (Alternate for David Winter this meeting)
Ricardo Romero	PSHSA (Consultant/Facilitator)
Kayla Thomson	PSHSA (Minutes)

Regrets:

Aaron Burridge	O AFC
Doug Kellam	Volunteer Firefighter (Absent Day 1)
David Winter	MLITSD
Ronald Landry	MLITSD
Patricia Clausen	PSHSA (Alternate facilitator)

Guests:

Ryan Brown	Chatham Public Works
Dave Taylor	Chatham Legal Services (Deputy CAO)
Chris Case	Chatham Fire Chief
Darrin Canniff	Chatham Mayor
Nikolina Petrovic	MLITSD (Policy)
Dave Sit	MLITSD (Policy)
Amber Sayed	MLITSD (Policy)
Jon Lee	MLITSD (Policy)

Introduction of Guests – D. Worrall/R. Grimwood

- The committee participated in a roundtable of introductions for guests.

Greetings – D. Worrall/R. Grimwood

- R. Grimwood greeted the committee.
- R. Grimwood went over the agenda for the next two days including presentations from Chatham-Kent. He also thanked C. Hoffman for having us.
- R. Grimwood reminded the committee that we are beginning the next cyclical review during this meeting.

Review of Minutes from the November meeting – D. Worrall/R. Grimwood

- No changes.

ACTION: K. Thomson to remove draft watermark and send to OAFK for posting.

Guidance Notes

Ministry update on guidance notes that are currently with the MLITSD for review/approval – C. Boccinfuso

- The following guidance notes are in the final stages, and they are hopeful that they will be ready soon for posting:
 - GN-3-03 Heat and Cold Stress
 - GN 6-49 Encampments
- The following guidance notes are currently with legal:
 - GN 5-03 Workplace Violence
 - GN-6-18 Unprotected Lightweight Building Construction
 - GN-6-26 Structural Firefighting Tactics
- The following guidance notes are going to be escalated:
 - GN 6-48 Marine Vessels
 - GN 6-50 Lithium-Ion Batteries
 - GN 6-51 Air Monitoring
 - GN 6-52 Firefighter Safety Around Rail Lines
 - GN 6-54 Rail Emergencies
 - GN 6-55 Supplementary Support Vehicles
 - GN 7-08 Live Fire Training

Ontario Regulation 714/94 Modernization – R. Grimwood

- R. Grimwood asked C. Boccinfuso about any updates on requests over the last 6 months.
- C. Boccinfuso has spoken with policy, and they will have an update tomorrow for the committee.
- It was noted that there needs to be more political drive happening in order to get this moving along at a faster pace. There has been lots of great work done, it just needs a bit of a push.
- D. Worrall spoke to the committee about how members don't feel safe at work, showing us that this is greatly needed. Unfortunately, the longer we wait, the higher chance there is of someone passing while on the job when it could have been prevented with these crucial updates to the regulation.

Cancer Prevention Checklist

Current checklist review

- D. Worrall went through the checklist with the committee for review line by line making changes directly to the document.
 - H. Baranik recommended changes to section 1 mentioning ventilation and skin absorption and how ingestion should be added.
 - R. Grimwood flagged Point 6 to add in “Every 2 years plus, a number of other conditions” as well as changing to “fit testing for all respirators to occur as per the CSA Z94.4-18 standard”
 - Point 9: The committee discussed the form signed by doctors about respirators and medical testing. It determines whether or not they are fit to use a respirator. “Workers are screened to ensure they are able to use a respirator safely” is the recommended change which includes not only can they put the respirator on, but they are medically able.

ACTION: The section was highlighted, the intent is right, but the words need a rework. R. Grimwood to work on this section outside of the committee and come back with updates.

- Point 15: “When in station” needs to be added to this section to reflect point 14.
- Point 16: “As required by standard or manufacturer” needs to be added considering different thresholds.
 - Add “manufacturers recommendations for visual inspection” needs to be added as a new line item under point 16. Add reference to point 12.
- Point 17: Rewording required. Original intent was about smoke migration. Add reference to shutting off the HVAC to prevent smoke migration.
- Point 18: Combine 18 and 21 to remove redundancy.
- Point 20: The committee talked about the original intent of this point and what different fire services do regarding hoods. Intent was to stop people from wearing contaminated hoods. Recommended change is: “Spare soft goods are available for use to replace contaminated soft goods (Protective hoods, helmet liners, gloves, etc.)”.
- Point 21: Merged with 18.
- Point 22: Intent was to make sure departments were considering the safety of pump operators. Change from specific reference to respirators to just “Respirators appropriate to the circumstances” which encompasses all types of respirators that departments may provide because it varies depending on situation.
- Point 24: “Weather permitting” should be removed, no matter the weather, contaminated gear should be removed in a rehab area. “Rehab area must be maintained as a clean area”. The committee also discussed weather conditions in the North and challenges they face during the winter months.
- Point 26: Change to “Hands and face are cleaned before consuming food or beverages”.
- Point 27: Remove “Head and neck” because they should be used for other places. Also, there are other ways to clean other than with wipes.
- Point 28: Remove. It’s covered in Point 31.
- Point 32: Another reference to working in the North while working in extreme low temperatures is needed. The suggested change is “Fire departments must have procedures to manage extreme temperatures”.
- Point 33: Remove “Firehall” and change to “Contaminated gear to be cleaned as per procedures and not to be cleaned at home or in community washing facilities”.

Even though your department has laundry facilities, sometimes not everything can be cleaned in them.

- Add new line that references [NFPA 1851 Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting](#).
- Point 36: The committee discussed gear storage in vehicles including bags, in the back seat of a truck, etc. They also discussed the variations in how departments decontaminate equipment. The suggested change is “Gear that is carried in passenger vehicles should be isolated from the passenger space (Closed container or trunk)”.
- Point 37: Change to “Following fire scene contamination, personnel will return to station for further decontamination”.
- Point 38: This one was a little complicated to begin with. The recommendation is to remove specific references and just use the CSA standard as this would need to be continuously updated. “Fire investigators will assess the scene and wear the recommended respirator in accordance with most current [CSA Z94.4-18](#) standard.”

ACTION: R. Grimwood to work on adjusting the above sections outside of the committee and come back with updates.

ACTION: H. Baranik and C. Hoffman to work on Points 39-53 outside of the committee and come back with updates.

- Point 57: Reference the use of materials that can be laundered.
- Point 58: Merge with 59. Instead of fire call, we say exposure to contaminants.
- Point 59: Remove.
- Point 61: J. Plater spoke about retrofitting of fire departments last year with areas to clean themselves.
- Point 63: Look at merging with 64.
- Point 64: Remove.
- Point 65: Add apparatus.

ACTION: R. Grimwood and D. Worrall to work on adjusting the PPE sections outside of the committee and come back with updates.

Missing items

- The committee discussed MLITSD Inspectors role and enforcements.
- Cancer prevention also includes things outside of fire fighting work.
- The committee did a quick review Newfoundland’s resources which are way ahead of Ontario.

ACTION: R. Grimwood and D. Worrall to gain access to the original copy of Newfoundland’s checklist so we can use it in tandem with our own to fill gaps.

- Promotion of early screening, preventing exposure to PFAS, lifestyle, exposure reports, diesel particulate, etc. are missing (Not all Chiefs want to or will complete exposure reports).
 - **Exposure reporting:** The committee discussed different exposures and reporting of these exposures. It’s important that years down the road, there should be documentation of what was the contaminant. It’s not a complicated report, it’s a general overview of what you were exposed to.

- Fire departments should have a mechanism for firefighters to report exposure automatically.
- **Healthy lifestyles:** Fire departments should have information assisting firefighters in developing a healthy lifestyle.
- **Promoting early detection:** Fire departments should encourage firefighters to ensure their healthcare providers know they are firefighters with higher occupational risk. They need a more aggressive medical screening.
- **Limiting exposure to PFAS:** Fire departments should have procedures in place limiting the exposure of PFAS. Add reference to our guidance note.
- **Diesel Particulates:** Fire departments should identify and work to reduce the exposure to diesel particulates.

ACTION: R. Grimwood and D. Worrall to finalize the new additions and prepare another version for the June and/or September meeting.

Cancer Prevention Working Group

- More data was requested from WSIB to update our numbers from two years ago.
- D. Worrall and R. Grimwood looked at what they provided, and it wasn't updated information from what was given last time, rather it was different data. They've requested updated data.
- In the meantime, the working group still hasn't met since there is no data to discuss currently.

Terms of Reference review

- The updated terms of reference were sent to committee following the last meeting where the committee went over suggested updates and changes were made.
- The updated terms of reference were then submitted to the MLITSD for approval.
- The committee had no changes.

ACTION: R. Grimwood and D. Worrall to speak to R. Landry about the status.

OPFFA Update – D. Worrall

- D. Worrall went to New Orleans in January to participate as part of the IAFF's restructuring of bunker gear where they discussed how we got to this point with bunker gear and exposure to PFAS as well as recommendations for gear.
- D. Worrall spoke about reproductive health for firefighters:
 - Different types of cancers effect men and women differently.
 - Chemical interactions are changing our DNA and our children's DNA. The development of our children is also being looked into.
 - Questions are being asked about whether or not there is a timeline for when firefighters should or shouldn't procreate or breastfeed, there are many considerations with family of firefighters.
- D. Worrall spoke about wildland firefighters and structural firefighters:
 - When moving from wildlands to structures, where the line is currently drawn.
 - This is a large issue, not localized.
 - There isn't what was considered an "offseason" anymore.
- The top 2 cancers from info provided by WSIB: Prostate and skin cancer which is reported at an earlier age.
- D. Worrall talked about firefighter safety instances happening across Ontario including workers for workers 6, move over, etc.

- There are meetings coming up with the prevention council in May where they will continue to push issues such as hearing protection. Hearing stats have gone up 5%.
- The Institute for Work and Health survey came out in December which showed that there are a large number of survey respondents who essentially do not feel safe at work.
- The committee discussed measuring hearing impact:
 - If it's not required under the act, most departments don't do it.
 - When windows are down and siren are on, it's a huge hearing issue.
 - A committee member shared that the MLITSD visited their department when a hearing issue was submitted. They went through operating guidelines, audiometric tester, etc. and the only thing picked up on is that they didn't give proper training for hearing protection like how to properly use hearing protection. When running a chainsaw, use ear plugs and earmuffs, etc.

OAFC Update – R. Grimwood

- The OAFC Conference & Trade Show is happening next week starting on April 30.

ACTION: R. Grimwood to send the committee information so they may attend the event.

- May 14 is Queens Park advocacy day. They will be meeting with 40-60 MPPs and Ministers.
 - There will be a follow up from March's conversation on 2025 priorities.
 - There will be a 6-month rebate process that the federal government put in place for tariffs that effect public safety.
 - Everyone is on the same page when it comes to early detection and prevention of firefighter cancer. Doctors coming out of medical school need to know firefighter risks, OHIP schedule of benefits needs to change, algorithm is currently age and gender based, occupational risk needs to be factored in.
 - Hoping to implement an occupational screening program based on the Hamilton model.
- In November the OAFC AGM week is happening which will have workshops, a health and safety seminar, S21 update, they are securing a speaker to discuss PFAS with attendees, there will be conversations surrounding bunker gear, the MLITSD is to speak about cancer prevention and what they are looking for, panel discussions, presentation on WSIB claims, updates from mental health collaborative table and more.

ACTION: R. Grimwood to send the committee information so they may attend the event.

PSHSA Update – R. Romero

Summary of OHSA amendments under the working for workers act

- **Now in Force:**
 - **Telework Coverage:** OHSA now applies to remote work done in or around a private residence.
 - **Virtual Harassment Included:** Definitions of workplace harassment now cover incidents occurring via digital platforms.
 - **Electronic Posting:** Employers can post health and safety materials (e.g., OHSA, policies, JHSC member info) electronically instead of physically, as long as access is clear and available.
 - **Remote JHSC Meetings:** Joint Health and Safety Committee meetings can be held virtually.
 - **Higher Fines:** A minimum \$500,000 fine applies to corporations with repeat OHSA offences resulting in serious injury or death within two years.

- **Proper PPE Fit Required:** Employers must ensure that personal protective clothing and equipment fit properly and are suitable.
- **Ministerial Powers Expanded:** The Minister can mandate worker trades committees and define their operations.
- **CPO Authority:** The Chief Prevention Officer can:
 - Approve out-of-province training equivalencies,
 - Set general OHSA training policies,
 - Collect personal info for provincial health and safety strategies.
- **Effective July 1, 2025:**
 - **Washroom Standards:** Employers must ensure workplace washrooms are clean and sanitary.
 - **Record Keeping (effective Jan 1, 2026):**
 - Must maintain cleaning logs showing the two most recent cleanings.
 - Logs must be posted or made accessible electronically.
 - Records must include the past six months (or project duration) of washroom servicing and cleaning.

Consulting

- **Compliance First** is a new digital platform developed by PSHSA to help Ontario workplaces easily meet their mandatory health and safety requirements—all in one place. Hosted through the **Litmos Learning Management System (LMS)** and fully managed by PSHSA, it offers a complete compliance solution that is ideal for organizations of all sizes, especially small businesses.

Key Features:

- **Mandatory Training:** Includes WHMIS, Worker and Supervisor Health and Safety Awareness, and more.
- **Posters & Signage:** Provides access to required workplace posters such as “Health and Safety at Work” and “In Case of Injury.”
- **Policy Templates:** Offers ready-to-use templates for health and safety, workplace violence, and harassment policies.

Benefits:

- **Ensured Compliance:** Guarantees access to the latest required training and documentation.
- **Managed by Experts:** PSHSA keeps content updated and accurate, with minimal setup required by the organization.
- **User-Friendly Platform:** Simple interface for managing training, resources, and reporting.

Who It’s For: While valuable to all workplaces, **Compliance First** is especially helpful for **small and mid-sized organizations** that may struggle to keep up with evolving health and safety regulations or lack internal administrative support.

Learn more: Visit [PSHSA – Compliance First](#) to explore how the platform can support your organization’s compliance strategy.

Training opportunities

R2 for Leaders – Classroom Training

- Summary: R2 for Leaders training helps public safety organizations build resilience. Available for free until the end of FY25-26.
- Contact: Reach out to schedule a session. [Link to Register](#)

R2 The Fundamentals – eLearning

- Summary: This self-paced eLearning course focuses on building resilient public safety organizations. It's free for a limited time and can be accessed online.
- Free eLearning: Available for Police, Fire, and EMS until FY25-26. Self-register via the following links:
- [Police – R2 The Fundamentals](#)
- [Fire – R2 The Fundamentals](#)
- [EMS – R2 The Fundamentals](#)
- Please share widely with your team.

Managing Mental Health Stay at Work & Return to Work for First Responders – Classroom Training

- Summary: This course focuses on strategies to manage mental health while staying at work or returning to work. It's available for free until the end of FY25-26.
- Free Training: Available for public safety organizations.
- Contact: Reach out to schedule a session. [Link to Register](#)

Workplace wellbeing webinar series – Free monthly learning opportunity

- PSHSA is hosting a **free, year-long webinar series** aimed at integrating wellbeing into workplace practices. Each month, expert consultants deliver practical, evidence-based tools and strategies focused on organizational wellbeing.

Key Details:

- **Who Should Attend?** Health & safety professionals, HR leaders, supervisors, and wellness champions in public safety and municipal sectors.
- **Format:** Online webinars – one hour each, held monthly.
- **Cost:** Free for all participants.

Upcoming Topics:

- **May 14:** Strengthening Your Foundation – Seamlessly Integrating Wellbeing Practices
- **June 18:** Assessing and Controlling Psychological Harm on the Job
- **July 16:** Exploring a Shared Responsibility for Workplace Wellbeing
- **August 20:** Workplace Wellbeing for Small Businesses
- **September 17:** Understanding the Root Causes of Psychological Harm
- **October 15:** Managing Psychosocial Factors for Injury Prevention
- **November 19:** Mental Health Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work – The Basics
- **December 17:** Building Your Mental Health Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work Toolkit

Register today: [PSHSA - Workplace Wellbeing Webinar Series](#)

Supporting the anti-stigma strategy for Ontario's public safety personnel

- PSHSA is proud to support the **Ministry of the Solicitor General’s Anti-Stigma Strategy**, which aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health among Ontario’s Public Safety Personnel (PSP). This initiative will unfold in three phases:

Key Components:

1. Mental Health Training for PSP Leaders

- a. Launching in **Fall 2025**, this training will support leaders in addressing stigma and fostering mentally healthy work environments.

2. Redesigned Resource Website

- a. A dedicated online hub offering tools, resources, and education for PSPs and their support networks.

3. Province-Wide Anti-Stigma Campaign

- a. A public-facing campaign to promote awareness, acceptance, and support around PSP mental health.

Engagement Opportunity – Your Input Needed:

Starting **mid-May 2025**, PSHSA will engage PSPs, employers, and families to co-develop the website and campaign messaging. Engagement activities will include:

- **Interviews**
- **Focus Groups**
- **A Broad-Based Survey**

How Section 21 Members Can Help:

- **Participate** in the engagement sessions.
- **Share** the upcoming survey with your networks and organizations.

Why This Matters:

The goal is to ensure that a **diverse range of voices** shape the messaging and delivery of the strategy. By aligning with the **values and priorities** of Ontario’s PSP communities, we aim to build a campaign that is relatable, inclusive, and widely adopted across the sector.

Next Steps:

Expect formal communications and invitations to participate in the coming weeks.

Join us for an energizing day of learning, connection, and inspiration hosted by PSHSA

Announcing a new opportunity this June with PSHSA: learning and networking days in Toronto, London, and Ottawa!

The “**Better Together: Advancing Public Sector Health, Safety and Wellbeing**” partner forum event welcomes leaders, health and safety champions, HR professionals, OHS or wellness professionals and those passionate about creating thriving workplaces.

This event gives attendees an opportunity to connect with peers from across Ontario and walk away with fresh ideas, practical tools, and new collaborations that can make a real difference in your workplace. You’ll also receive a certificate of participation that can be used to support continuing education requirements for professional designations.

There will be three events in Ontario:

- **Toronto - June 10th:** Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) Student Centre
- **London - June 17th:** Ramada Inn
- **Ottawa - June 24th:** Algonquin College

Register for early bird pricing until May 16: [PSHSA - Better Together: Advancing Public Sector Health, Safety and Wellbeing](#)

MNR – Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES) – S. Maragna

- The new government has been announced, and MNR's new minister is Minister Mike Harris, and briefings have started – looking forward to supporting him
- Fire season has commenced as of April 1. We are anticipating approximately 150 fire crews for the season this year.
- Bill 228 – Last fall, if you recall that the Bill received Second Reading. With the government change, they are reintroducing the Bill (Bill 228) - They are still waiting for next steps once the legislature has reconvened.
- Aircraft are coming online for fire season, this includes waterbombers, fixed wing aircraft/fleet, helicopters, and long-term rotary aircraft
- More medium helicopters and fixed wing aircraft were acquired last year which will be helpful for the season.
- Currently they are monitoring precipitation levels with weather stations now being open. Weather conditions have indicated that the northwestern part of the province is seeing more dry conditions at 'start up'
- Standard issue – agreements are being updated with municipalities.
- Two large-scale projects are happening in partnership with CROSH at Laurentians University through an established Collaborative Research Agreement:
 - Project 1:
 - Field research for heat illness initiative which is a 3-year plan. This year they are working in the field.
 - Implementing arm bands that track core temperature and give you prompts to remind you to hydrate. Eventually there will be alarms that go off but right now they are just collecting the data to help inform the existing Heat Illness Prevention Program in AFFES
 - Project 2:
 - Hazards associated with working in wildfire smoke (respiratory) and dermal exposures including the release of the Interim Direction on respiratory and dermal exposure
 - The program includes: Safety bulletin, interim guidance on hazards, training (coming up); PPE and other items (posters for awareness):
 - Procured and distributed particulate barriers
 - additional shower kits in the field.
 - dermal wipes that were recommended at the September Section 21 meeting have been procured for the field
 - Purple air quality monitors are being procured to support a growing network of air quality monitoring devices as in most parts of northern Ontario there is no air quality monitoring through ECCC.
 - Procured and distributing additional fire line workwear (Nomex)
 - CROSH is conducting in field research with firefighters, staff and pilots - testing smoke exposure in the field where monitors will be worn to track different stages of fighting the fires.
 - There will be a session in May with staff to get them accustomed to the equipment they will have for this fire season.

- Updates to operational implications (Strategies and tactics) will follow
 - CROSH will also help flush out the next stages of the project and has helped to create safety awareness posters for wildland firefighters in addition to training materials
- OAFIC is partnering with the division on some important work. Firefighters, SOLGEN and EMO are in discussions on developing a provincial Wildland Urban Interface program inclusive of training, awareness, etc. In early stages but will be working together in building a future where everyone comes together for firefighting.
- The committee thanked S. Maragna for the MNR's help during the ice storm.

PFAS Discussion – All

- The committee discussed industry trends related to NPFAs and best practices to reduce PFAs exposure.

New business

Water rescue video review

- D. Worrall showed a video to the committee from Napanee of a car that drove into a river. Firefighters took an inflatable craft, it flipped, and the firefighters fell out. Two firefighters survived with injuries but there was a close margin of error.
- After the fact, the MLITSD investigated, and they worked together to make a compliance plan.
 - Issues involved incident command; workers were not prepared.
 - There will be a third party come in to look at equipment and what they need to do as well as provide a training plan.
- D. Worrall spoke about other instances of issues involving water rescue. Firefighters did not have the training necessary, swift water training, and were at risk of drowning.
- There should be training done so for these instances, they have a trained and knowledgeable response team.

Chatham Mayor greeting – D. Canniff

- Chatham, Mayor Darrin Canniff, introduced himself to the committee.
- He spoke with the committee about his appreciation for firefighters and the good work of this committee.
- The Mayor spoke about Wheatley and their fire services experience with it.

Wheatley Abandoned gas well events – R. Brown, D. Taylor, C. Case and C. Hoffman

- R. Brown, D. Taylor and C. Case introduced themselves to the committee and gave an overview of the incident in Wheatley regarding abandoned gas wells and safety concerns and best practices when dealing with them.
- Background:
 - **June 2, 2021** - Hydrogen sulfide (~3000 ppm) is detected in the basement of a commercial building in the downtown core of Wheatley. The owner reports that their floor drain emitting water and gas.
 - A state of emergency resulted in an evacuation order for several blocks in the immediate vicinity of where the gas was detected.
 - Gas monitoring was implemented. The evacuation lasted approximately two weeks.
 - **July 19, 2021** - Hydrogen sulfide was again detected by monitors.
 - Samples are collected and confirmed presence of H₂S, Methane (C₁), C₃-C₈, non-detect Mercaptan.

- Results not consistent with distribution system gas.
- A second evacuation is implemented.
- **August 26, 2021** – A further release triggered monitors. As an evacuation was being performed, an explosion occurred.
 - Several major injuries but no fatalities.
- An evacuation of portions of the downtown was active for a few years, with successive reductions in the evacuation zone based on engineering advice and the installation of safety systems.
- **October 2024** – The evacuation had finally ended.

Friday, April 25, 8:30 am

MLITSD Policy Update (Friday morning) – N. Petrovic, D. Sit, A. Sayed and J. Lee

- D. Sit and N. Petrovic introduced themselves to the committee.

Ontario Regulation 714/94 Modernization

- The Committee had a discussion about the priorities document and how it has taken a long time to get any type of movement towards the update of the regulation due to frequent staff changes. In the updates, there were sections about housekeeping (i.e. clean up the current reg and bring it up to date), proposed measures and procedures (i.e. water rescue, hazardous materials, etc.), proposed training, (i.e. traffic, structural firefighting), and the last section is on cancer prevention.

Priorities list

- Bunker gear fit was tasked a priority.
- D. Worrall flagged that it was, in a sense, added into Working for Workers 6. Not directly for the fire service, more so for women specifically, but still could work.
- The committee discussed with policy the fit of bunker gear.
- Policy flagged the committees concerns with costs on municipalities for purchasing extra gear.
- D. Worrall asked if N. Petrovic could send the spreadsheet to the committee for the working group to review and get back to them about a priorities list. It was done 3 years ago and needs to be looked at again.

ACTION: Policy to send the proposal document to R. Grimwood and D. Worrall.

ACTION: R. Grimwood, D. Worrall, A. Burridge and D. Kellam to re-convene the working group to review and update the proposals.

- D. Worrall recommended adding red, yellow and green flag issues.
- The committee discussed how this has taken three years to get through. There is no safety net, if something happens it could have been avoided if we could move forward with our priorities. References from three years ago don't even exist today.
- Policy committed to work together to get this in a state of readiness, and they understand frustrations.
- The proposal consists of four packages: Existing language amendments with changes, proposed measures and procedures, proposed training and cancer prevention.
- The committee discussed how there are not many laws protecting firefighters and how chiefs are going to councils and getting nothing from it because their asks are not required by law, therefore they won't pay for it.

Guidance notes (Continued) – R. Grimwood, D. Worrall and C. Boccinfuso

Cyclical review – finalize plans to re-start the cyclical review process

- C. Boccinfuso live edited the guidance notes with the committee.

GN 1-1 Fire Apparatus Occupant Safety

- Action for employers section:
 - The committee discussed seatbelt requirements for fire trucks considering instances where you don't wear a seatbelt such as in parades.
- Secure loose items:
 - Add reference to helmets, flashlights, etc.

ACTION: C. Boccinfuso to have guidance note sent through the ministry process.

GN 1-2 Apparatus Inspections and Maintenance Program

- Apparatus preventative maintenance program:
 - Add new bullet to make inspection and repair records available to apparatus drivers.
- Applicable section:
 - NFPA 1911 is now [NFPA 1910: Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles and Marine Firefighting Vessels](#).

ACTION: C. Boccinfuso to have guidance note sent through the ministry process.

GN 1-3 Backing Fire Apparatus

- The committee discussed high visibility safety apparel requirements.

GN 1-5 Life Safety Rope and Equipment

- Related:
 - Add reference to [NFPA 2500: Standard for Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents and Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services](#).
 - Remove ULC 555-93 reference.

GN 1-6 Inspection of Chains, Webbing, Wire Rope and Extrication Tools

- Background:
 - Add "But not limited to".
 - Add reference to air bags, struts and stabilization equipment.
- Extrication tools section title change.

GN 1-7 Electrical Equipment and Cords

- Committee discussed manufacturers recommendations.
- Background:
 - Add "corded and cordless" next to tools.
- Actions for employers:
 - Add that it should be "removed from service" not replaced.

GN 1-8 Safety Considerations for New Fire Apparatus

- References:

- Add reference to [NFPA 1900: Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances](#)
- Remove other NFPA mentions.
- Update all “Aren’t” to “Are not”.
- Related:
 - Remove majority of section before reading list.
 - Change to hyperlink to NFPA 1900.
 - Add reference to [GN 1-1: Fire apparatus occupant safety](#).

GN 1-9 SCBA Air Cylinder Handling

- Visual inspection:
 - The committee discussed how you should be leaving a balance of air in the cylinder, don’t completely drain it according to manufacturers recommendations.
 - Jeff Kirk to research and confirm with the committee

Inviting stakeholders and dignitaries to future meetings

- Nothing to update at this moment

Confirm the plan to invite WSIB staff to committee meetings

- Nothing to update at this moment

Fire Services Section 21 Committee Communication Avenues – K. Thomson

- 6-month trial run with K. Thomson spearheading the project.
- She has asked for a working group to be formed to work with her on content.

ACTION: K. Thomson, D. Kellam and A. King to form a working group and meet to finalize plans for the committee’s presence on social media.

Confirm Plans for the Joint Police, Fire & Paramedic Section 21 Committee meeting

- There will be a joint meeting in Markham on day one.
- Day two will be held at ministry office with just the fire services.
- There are concerns over the agenda items that were pre-planned by the ministry and how they wouldn’t necessarily be beneficial for all committees together.
- Committee ideas:
 - Joint training with OPP or municipal police for violent offenders.

ACTION: C. Boccinfuso to send agenda to D. Worrall and R. Grimwood to go through. They will provide feedback.

Finalize Locations for the Third and Fourth Quarter Meetings

- To be determined.

2025 meeting dates:

- June 5 and 6 – Multi committee (Tri service) meeting – Markham
- September 15 and 16 – TBD
- December 4 and 5 – TBD