

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
April 14-15, 2011**

Meeting at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto

Commencing at noon on Thursday, April 14, 2011

Present:

Ellard Beaven	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Matt Pegg	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Terry Allen	AMO
Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA
Darrell Ellwood	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Andy Kostiuik	O AFC
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Darren Storey	FFAO
Mike Vilneff	O AFC
Wayne Sutherland	Public Services Health & Safety Association (Observer)
Karen Hanna	MOL Facilitator

1. Review of Minutes from January 31/February 1, 2011

The minutes were accepted as written.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the minutes and distribute for posting on the websites.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Matt and Cathy reported that they met with a representative from AMO on April 14, 2011, and discussed the upcoming revision to GN # 4-8 Inspection and Replacement of Structural Firefighting Bunker Gear. The revised Guidance Note references NFPA 1851, 2008 edition, as well as the bunker gear manufacturer's recommendations. Karen discussed the requirements of Section 25 (1)(b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act for the employer to maintain protective equipment in good condition; GN # 4-8 provides additional guidance on the inspection, care and maintenance, and replacement of bunker gear. Matt will be providing an update to Fire Chiefs on this issue at the upcoming O AFC conference. Karen indicated that the revised GN # 4-8 will be posted on the websites next month.

Matt reported that the revision cycle for NFPA 1851 starts in July 2011. The next edition of NFPA 1851 is expected to be out in 2013.

Matt also reported that there will be a new edition of NFPA 1971 that is expected to be released in November 2011. The new version of the standard will be known as NFPA 1971, 2012 edition. The NFPA 1971 Technical Committee, of which Matt is a member, will be asked whether NFPA 1971, 2012 edition, is considered to be equivalent to NFPA 1971, 2007 edition (referenced in Section 5 of O. Reg. 714/94) with respect to bunker gear.

3. Updates on the Amendments to the Section 21 Manual

Karen provided an overview of the many amendments that have been made to the Section 21 manual. The updated manual is now posted on the fire service stakeholder websites. As the amendments to the manual were so extensive, an explanation of the manual amendments is also posted on the websites to assist stakeholders. The Section 21 Committee members have also received copies of the new CD.

4. Draft GN Wind Turbines

Andy presented the draft GN Wind Turbines. The Committee discussed the amendments that have been made to the draft and decided that it was ready to go out for comment.

ACTION: Karen to send the draft GN out for comment.

5. Draft GN Solar Power Systems

Andy presented the draft GN Solar Power Systems, which was based in large part on the recommendations outlined in a report prepared by the Fire Protection Research Foundation entitled "Fire Fighter Safety and Emergency Response for Solar Power Systems", which is available on the NFPA website. Darren indicated that he will discuss the draft with a representative of the power company in his area. Matt indicated that he will forward it to Brent Harris, Chief Technology Officer with Sustainable Energy Technologies. He is speaking at the upcoming O AFC AMES on PV safety for firefighters; as an expert in the field, his input to the draft GN would be valuable. The Committee decided that it the GN should go out for comment after the review by Brent Harris.

ACTION: Karen to send the draft GN out for comment after the O AFC AMES.

6. Application of Section 25 (2)(j) of the OHSA

Andy had requested information from Karen as to whether Section 25, (2)(j) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act applies to SOPs. Section 25 (2)(j) is the requirement for the employer to prepare an occupational health and safety policy and a program to implement that policy, and that the policy be reviewed annually. Karen indicated that the annual review is a requirement for the OH&S policy, not for the Standard Operating Procedures.

7. OFM Information on Lightweight Building Construction

On April 13, 2011, the OFM sent a letter to all Fire Chiefs and included information on Lightweight Building Construction. It is unfortunate, but the information sent out by the OFM did not include the Section 21 Committee GN # 6-18. GN # 6-18 is a long-standing GN, formerly known as GN # 6-18 Lightweight Building Construction, and now known as GN # 6-18 Unprotected Lightweight Building Construction. This revision to the GN recognizes that fact that buildings constructed using lightweight materials, that are not sufficiently protected by sprinklers or effective non-combustible structural protection systems, may collapse much sooner than expected and without the warning signs that are commonly present in fires that involve legacy construction. The Committee thought that it might be a good idea to include this additional OFM information as a reference in GN # 6-18.

ACTION: Ed to check with the OFM to determine whether this information can be referenced in GN # 6-18.

8. Draft GN Vacant Buildings

Shayne and Darrell presented the draft GN Vacant Buildings. The Committee discussed the amendments that have been made to the draft and decided that it was ready to go out for comment.

ACTION: Karen to send the draft GN out for comment.

9. Revision of GN # 7-1 Health and Safety During Training Exercises

This item was deferred to the next meeting for discussion.

ACTION: Karen to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

10. Revision of GN # 4-11 Fall Protection from Elevating Devices

Matt informed the Committee of a request that he received to review GN # 4-11. It was noted that the next revision cycle for NFPA 1901 Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus begins in 2013, with the revised version to be the 2014 edition. Suggestions as to what the revised version of NFPA 1901 should include were discussed. Matt agreed to review GN # 4-11 and fall protection options.

ACTION: Andy to work with Matt to review GN # 4-11.

11. Public Review of CSA Z180.1, 5th Edition

Rod reported that the Canadian Standards Association is undertaking a review of CSA Z180.1. The comment period for public review of the 5th Edition of the standard is from February 25 – April 26, 2011. Karen reported that anyone interested can download a draft pdf version of the Standard from the Public Review section of the CSA website. Karen also reminded the Committee that CSA Standards referenced in occupational health and safety legislation can be viewed from the MOL website.

12. Use of Replacement and Spare Parts on Respirators

Karen reported that the Ministry of Labour's Provincial Hygienist provided the MOL position on the use of replacement and spare parts on respirators.

MOL specifies that NIOSH approved respiratory protection be used when the need for such protection is identified. The attached NIOSH Notice confirms the position of NIOSH regarding the use of replacement and spare parts.



NIOSH Respirator
Notice

The Notice forms the opinion that interchanging of assemblies results in modification. If this occurs, the respirator no longer meets the definition of being approved as a NIOSH certified respirator and the use of the NIOSH approval label is not authorized for that unit.

In summary, MOL accepts only NIOSH approved respiratory protective equipment and also the NIOSH interpretations regarding the use of replacement and spare parts.

13. Cardiac Incidents

Rod discussed cardiac incidents and the frequency among firefighters. There was discussion regarding whether there should be medical surveillance of firefighters for cardiac conditions. It was noted that the WSIB has a lot of information on this, as well as municipalities and their respective human resources departments. Karen indicated that Section 26 (1)(h) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act requires employers to establish a medical surveillance program for the benefit of workers as prescribed; as prescribed means by regulation. There is no regulation that requires such medical surveillance for cardiac conditions for firefighters. It was noted that the IAFC and IAFF have developed physical fitness programs and that each firefighter should take responsibility for their own physical fitness.

14. MOL Inspector Practices and Visits

Shayne asked a question regarding the inspection practices when MOL Inspectors conduct field visits at workplaces. Karen discussed how MOL becomes aware of workplace incidents and how this has evolved with the establishment of the MOL Health and Safety Contact Centre (1-877-202-0008), a one window access to MOL. MOL could receive reports of incidents that occur in workplaces from the workplace parties themselves (i.e. employer, supervisor, worker, etc.). The police often report workplace incidents such as critical injuries and fatalities to MOL. Karen explained the powers that MOL Inspectors have; these are also described in Section 54 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Karen also explained that MOL Inspectors adhere to a Code of Professionalism.

15. Confined Spaces Consolidation

Karen reported on the consolidation of the confined spaces requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Effective July 1, 2011, O. Reg. 632/05 is being amended to consolidate all of the confined spaces requirements that were previously under that regulation and four sector-specific regulations into one. This amendment to the regulatory requirements for confined spaces requires an amendment to GN # 6-5 Confined Space Rescue.

ACTION: Karen to revise GN # 6-5 for presentation to the Committee at the next meeting.

16. Review of GN # 2-6 Emergency Preparedness

As this GN has not been reviewed since 2003 and references outdated legislation, the Committee discussed a review of GN # 2-6.

ACTION: Mike and Rod to review GN # 2-6 for presentation to the Committee at the next meeting.

17. MOL Report

Karen reported that the Standing Committee on Social Policy is currently considering Bill 160, Occupational Health and Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011. Bill 160 was introduced in the Legislature for First Reading on March 3, 2011.

The Minister of Labour has named Paavo Kivisto, former Deputy Minister of Labour, to be the Interim Chief Prevention Officer until such time as the recruitment of the Chief Prevention Officer is complete. An Interim Prevention Council has also been named. The Interim Prevention Council is comprised of members of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety (Tony Dean Panel).

The inspection blitzes that will be undertaken by Ministry of Labour Inspectors in the Industrial Health and Safety Program for fiscal year 2011-2012 include the New and Young Worker Blitz (May – August), Tower Crane Suppliers Blitz (May), Personal Protective Equipment (October), Racking and Storage (November), and Musculoskeletal Disorders (February 2012). The listing of inspection blitzes for all program areas is available on the MOL website.

The 2011-2012 external sector plan for the Industrial Health and Safety Program is expected to be posted on the MOL website by July 1, 2011. For the Fire Service, Inspectors will focus on the Internal Responsibility System (meeting legislated requirements for Joint Health and Safety Committees/Health and Safety Representatives, multi-site JHSCs only where approved by MOL), ensuring that fire departments develop SOPs (based on the Guidance Notes produced by the Section 21 Committee) taking into account the fire department's response capability, respiratory protection, proper use and maintenance of personal protective equipment, slips, trips and falls, and musculoskeletal disorders.

Karen reported that she conducted a presentation at the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association's Health and Safety Seminar on February 9, 2011. The presentation was on Safe At Work Ontario and the role of the MOL inspector.

Karen reported that on March 9, 2011, she met with Carl Pearson, Dave Carruthers, and Darren Storey from the Fire Fighters Association of Ontario.

Next Meeting Date

June 21-22, 2011, in Collingwood