

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
January 31 and February 1, 2011**

Meeting at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto

Commencing at noon on Monday, January 31, 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 Kostiuk	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

Guests:

Jim Jessop	Niagara Falls Fire Department
Sat Viridi	Technical Standards & Safety Authority

1. Review of Minutes from November 25-26, 2010

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

Andy reported that the Technical Standards & Safety Authority is on board with the train the trainer model for elevator rescue.

3. Guest Presentation – Vacant Buildings & Firefighter Safety, Jim Jessop

Jim Jessop, Deputy Fire Chief of the Niagara Falls Fire Department attended the Section 21 Committee meeting to conduct a presentation regarding the hazards encountered by firefighters when working in or near vacant buildings. The Committee decided to draft a Guidance Note on this issue. However, it was noted that GN # 6-18 Lightweight Building Construction and GN # 6-24 Building Collapse During Fire Situations address other associated hazards. It was also decided that a draft GN on vacant buildings will not address Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) enforcement issues, as it is outside of MOL's scope.

ACTION: Karen to send Jim Jessop's presentation to the members of the Committee. Shayne and Darrell will draft a GN for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Update on Regulatory Amendments

Karen reviewed the firefighter regulatory amendments that became effective on January 1, 2011. O. Reg. 480/10 amends O. Reg. 714/94 Firefighters – Protective Equipment. The amendments to O. Reg. 714/94 require employers to provide firefighters with bunker gear that meets or exceeds NFPA 1971 Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, 2007 edition, in the case of garments manufactured on or after March 1, 2007. If the bunker gear was manufactured before that date, the amendments allow its continued provision if it was designed to the standard previously required in the regulation (i.e. CAN/CGSB-155.1-M88 Firefighters' Protective Clothing for Protection Against Heat and Flame).

O. Reg. 479/10 amends O. Reg. 278/05 Designated Substance – Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations. The amendments to O. Reg. 278/05 exempt firefighters and fire investigators from the provisions of that regulation, commencing with the arrival on the emergency scene and continues through and until the completion of the origin and cause investigation activities. Reg. 833 Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents applies to fire department operations on emergency scenes.

On behalf of the Ministry of Labour, Karen thanked the Co-Chairs and the Section 21 Committee members for the technical advice and assistance that was provided to the Ministry as these regulatory amendments were being developed.

5. Review of Comments on Draft GN # 4-14 Routine Medical Precautions

Karen presented the comments that were received on the draft GN. Karen also presented comments that she received on the draft GN from the Chief Physician and the Infection Control Specialists from the Ministry of Labour. It was decided that the title of the GN would change to be GN # 4-14 Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Practices.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and obtain MOL approvals.

6. Review of Comments on the Revised GN # 2-3 Radio Communications

Karen presented the comments that were received on the revised GN.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and place it in the manual.

7. Draft Revision of GN # 6-18 Lightweight Building Construction

Matt presented suggested revisions to the GN. It was recognized 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. It was decided that GN # 6-18 should be revised and renamed as GN # 6-18 Unprotected Lightweight Building Construction.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and place it in the manual.

8. Special Guest – Sat Virdi, Technical Standards & Safety Authority

Sat Virdi, Regional Supervisor, Fuels Safety Program, TSSA, attended the meeting to discuss with the Committee fuel related safety issues for firefighters. Sat distributed and discussed the TSSA Fuels Safety Program Guideline for Incident Reporting Criteria for Hydrocarbon Fuels Industry, May 2002. He indicated that the TSSA has an agreement in place with the Ministry of Environment's Spills Action Centre (SAC) to receive notifications where there are incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning, asphyxiation, explosion or fire, or an accidental release, vent, leak or spill has occurred because of the use, handling or storage of hydrocarbons covered

under the TSSA. Fuels incidents can be reported to the SAC 24 hours per day, seven days per week at 1-800-268-6060. When requested, SAC can contact the TSSA Fuels Safety Program on-call person.

9. Draft GN Training Action Plans

Ed and Gerry presented a draft GN on Training Action Plans. The Committee decided that rather than have a separate GN, the components of the GN should be integrated into GN # 7-1 Health and Safety During Training Exercises, and renamed as GN # 7-1 Health and Safety During Practical Training Sessions. As a sample Training Safety Plan, used by the Ontario Fire College, was not available at the time of the meeting for review by the Committee, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Ed to send the sample Training Safety Plan used by the OFC to Karen for inclusion in the April meeting package.

10. Draft Revision of GN # 6-7 Driving Skills for Emergency Apparatus Response

Darren, Kevin and Andy presented the draft revision to GN # 6-7 Driving Skills for Emergency Apparatus Response. This revision takes into account the fact that fire departments may be using various types of specialty vehicles and off-road vehicles such as all-terrain vehicles, utility vehicles and snowmobiles. It was noted that these vehicles should be operated in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and place it in the manual.

11. Draft GN Solar Panels and Firefighter Safety

Andy presented the draft GN Solar Panels and Firefighter Safety. Karen distributed information from a report prepared by the Fire Protection Research Foundation entitled "Fire Fighter Safety and Emergency Response for Solar Power Systems". This report is available on the NFPA website. Terry offered that he had a contact in the solar panel industry that may be able to provide additional information regarding solar power systems.

ACTION: The item has been deferred for further research.

12. Draft GN Wind Turbines and Firefighter Safety

Andy and Kevin presented the draft GN Wind Turbines and Firefighter Safety. Andy indicated that it would be a good idea to check with experts in the wind power industry prior to proceeding with the GN.

ACTION: The item has been deferred for further research.

13. CGSB155.22 and GN # 4-7 Wildland Firefighting, Protective Clothing and Equipment for Municipal Fire Departments

Matt reported that the OAFCA was in receipt of an invitation to participate in the review of CGSB155.22. It was noted that the 2009 version of GN # 4-7 removed the reference to the CGSB standard and that no further amendments were required to GN # 4-7 at this time.

ACTION: Matt to inform the OAFCA.

14. Notice of MOL Consultations – Confined Spaces Consolidation Proposal and Accident Reporting Consolidation Proposal

Karen reported that the Ministry of Labour (MOL) recently posted two proposals on the government's Regulatory Registry. The first is to consolidate all regulatory requirements regarding confined spaces under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) into one regulation (specifically, O. Reg. 632/05). The second is to consolidate all existing accident reporting requirements (currently found in seven regulations under the OHSA) into one regulation. Comments on the regulatory proposals are due by February 22, 2011.

ACTION: Karen to convey the Section 21 comments to MOL staff regarding the confined spaces proposal.

15. **Revision of GN # 4-8 Inspection and Replacement of Bunker Gear**

Karen presented the proposed amendments to GN # 4-18 Inspection and Replacement of Bunker Gear, which has been watermarked as "Under Review" since 2008. Terry questioned whether AMO had been consulted on the proposed revision.

ACTION: Karen will follow up with her MOL colleagues in Policy and report back at the next meeting.

16. **MOL Report**

Karen reported that Charles Sousa is the new Minister of Labour, replacing Peter Fonseca.

The Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety, led by Tony Dean, submitted their report to the Minister of Labour on December 16, 2010. The Minister of Labour has indicated that he has accepted the recommendations of the Dean Panel.

Karen reported that GN # 6-10 Highway Traffic Control can be revised to reference the 2009 CSA High Visibility Safety Apparel standard, which is now recognized by the Ministry of Labour. Karen mentioned that her colleague, Joe O'Grady, who facilitates the EMS Subcommittee, is participating on a Ministry of Transportation committee that is revising the MTO Book 7 to include unplanned events. There is a meeting that is being planned March 2011 whereby the MTO committee is looking for a representative from each of the first responder Section 21 Committees to provide input regarding the possible revisions to Book 7. The Section 21 Committee asked Andy to represent the fire service at this meeting when it is scheduled.

On January 28, 2011, Karen sent to the Committee an Alert regarding the Stop Use of a Miller Fall Protection Harness.

Karen reported on the new protective equipment standard for CBRN, intended for fire, police, paramedics and health care workers. The standard is CAN/CGSB/CSA-Z1610 Protection of First Responders from Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Events.

MOL Industrial Program Inspectors will be doing a blitz in February 2011 on loading docks and shipping and receiving areas. Further information on the blitz will be posted on the MOL website.

Karen reported that information on items that the Ontario Government has posted on the Regulatory Registry can be viewed by visiting www.ontariocanada.com/registry. The Regulatory Registry is a one-stop source for information on new proposed regulatory initiatives, and recently approved regulations.

A revised Section 21 Committee manual should be loaded onto the fire service websites soon.

Next Meeting Date

April 14-15, 2011, in Toronto