

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee  
(Section 21 Committee)  
FINAL MINUTES  
January 28 - 29, 2008**

**Meeting at Holiday Inn Select, Toronto Airport**

**Commencing at Noon on Monday, January 28, 2008**

**Present:**

Chris Powers	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Daryl Stephenson	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Ellard Beaven	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC
Richard McCurdy	OPFFA
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Matt Pegg	O AFC

Wayne Sutherland                   MHSA (Observer)

Karen Hanna                        MOL Facilitator

**Regrets:**

Tim Boychuk	AMO
Darren Storey	FFAO

**Guests:**

Mike Morton	EMO
Lorraine Shaw	McMaster University
Don Shaw	McMaster University

**1. Review of Minutes from January 28-29, 2008**

Received and accepted as written. With respect to Item 5, Overweight Fire Trucks, Chris noted that the Ministry of Transportation has exemption permits available on their website.

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

**2. Revision to GN #4-10 (42) Hearing Protection During Emergency Operations**

Chris had suggested that GN #4-10 (42) be revised due to the changes to the noise section of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments.

**ACTION:** Rod and Richard to draft the revised GN and present it at the next meeting.

**3. Revision to GN #2-5 (33) Designated Officer Program for Communicable Disease**

Daryl reported that he and Training Instructor Brian Arnold from London Fire Services have been looking at GN #2-5 (33) Designated Officer Program for Communicable Disease, and a revised draft GN was reviewed by the Section 21 Committee. It was decided that GN #2-5 (33) would be left as is and a new GN will be drafted on an Infectious Disease Control

Program/Communicable Disease.

**ACTION:** Gerry and Shayne to work on the new GN and bring it to the next meeting. Karen to find out from the MOL Provincial Physician the type of mask recommended.

#### **4. Proposed Incident Management System for Ontario – Mike Morton (EMO)**

Mike Morton, Deputy Chief, Program Development, Emergency Management Ontario, presented the proposed IMS for Ontario. Karen raised the issue of MOL not being included as a standing member on the IMS Committee and the impact that IMS may have on occupational health and safety legislation. Karen noted that there will be questions that arise regarding who is considered to be competent; it was noted that the definition of “competent person” is contained in the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and that employers are required to appoint a “competent person” as a supervisor. Mike indicated that there is no plan to regulate IMS at this time. Daryl noted the impact that IMS will have on the Section 21 Incident Command GN. The Section 21 Committee discussed the concerns that they had with IMS.

**ACTION:** The Co-Chairs will write a letter to EMO expressing the concerns of the Section 21 Committee with IMS. Mike Morton’s presentation will be sent to the Committee by Karen.

#### **5. McMaster University Research Initiatives – Lorraine Shaw and Don Shaw**

Shayne provided the Committee with background information from Markham Fire and Emergency Services regarding their flashover training. McMaster University’s Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory is undertaking a study to evaluate firefighters’ exposure to particulate, volatile and semi-volatile organics during firefighting and associated activities. Lorraine Shaw described her work regarding absorption exposures and was seeking support for her research from members of the fire service. Many firefighters have indicated to Lorraine that they feel that soot, as a nanoparticulate, is being absorbed into their skin. Lorraine stated that not a lot of research has been conducted regarding skin exposure. Lorraine indicated that she is pursuing a grant through the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. The proposal was presented to RAC in February 2007 and the grant was denied. RAC requested that they conduct more research on the equipment and that they employ a statistician to analyze the research; the proposal is being resubmitted to RAC. Lorraine noted her involvement with the Peterborough Fire Department. They had requested that their flashover unit be measured for contaminants. She indicated that she already has a letter of support for her proposal from the Ontario Association of Fire Training Officers and that she was seeking letters of support from the OAFCA, OPFFA and FFAO. The WSIB grant proposal submission deadline is February 4, 2008.

**ACTION:** Lorraine to provide templates of letters of support to the Section 21 Committee members to take to their individual associations. Lorraine Shaw’s presentation will be sent to the Committee by Karen.

#### **6. MHSA Sector Specific JHSC Certified Member Training**

Richard and Wayne reported that the first pilot of the fire service sector specific Joint Health and Safety Committee Certified Member training will be conducted at the OPFFA Health and Safety Seminar being held in Toronto. It is a two day course. Wayne distributed a document to the Committee entitled “New Sector Specific Course for the Fire Sector in Ontario”. Karen noted that any endorsements of the course would have to come from the individual associations. Also, it was noted that the WSIB determines whether certified member training meets with their requirements and criteria; MOL inspectors determine compliance with Section 9 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

#### **7. Proposed Revisions to Water Related GNs - GN #6-2 (5) and GN #6-3 (8)**

Matt provided an overview of the revisions that he made to GN #6-2 (5) Fire Fighting Near

Water and GN #6-3 (8) Water and Ice Rescue. It was decided by the Committee to have these GNs reviewed by Bill Hammond, Instructor, Ontario Fire College.

**ACTION:** Karen to send both notes to Bill Hammond for review.

## 8. PPE GNs and Changing NFPA Standards

The problems that arise with the Guidance Notes due to the changing NFPA Standards were discussed. Matt reviewed proposed changes to GN # 4-1 (1) Application of Firefighters – Protective Equipment Regulation. The Committee recognized the difficulty is obtaining bunker gear that is compliant with O. Reg. 714/94 (CAN/CGSB 155.1-M88). It was previously discussed that an engineer could perform a side by side comparison of the CAN/CGSB Standard and NFPA 1971 “Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting”. As was discussed previously, if NFPA 1971 is found to be equal to or increases the protection of the worker, then an equivalency can be sought under Section 3 of O. Reg. 714/94.

**ACTION:** Andy to engage an engineer with Toronto Fire Services to conduct an analysis of the two standards.

## 9. Retirement of Bunker Gear; Change to NFPA 1851

Matt reviewed proposed changes to GN #4-8 (40) Inspection and Replacement of Bunker Gear. It was noted that many bunker gear service companies are working to the NFPA Standard and many departments have had to replace bunker gear based on companies indicating that they will not repair the bunker gear. Karen indicated that the issue is still being considered by the Ministry of Labour to determine the government position. As such, the GN cannot be revised until further direction is received.

## 10. Apparatus Collision in Marathon

Ellard had requested that this be discussed, for information, by the Committee. Matt shared with the Committee the synopsis of the incident that he obtained from Ian Laing of Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services. The incident occurred on December 23, 2007, where a pumper lost control while traveling at 60 km/h and went over an embankment.

## 11. Statistics on Fall Hazards in the Fire Service

This item was discussed further to Joe O’Grady, Acting Regional Program Coordinator from the Western Region, Ministry of Labour, attending the last Section 21 meeting to discuss the issue of pumper trucks and hose handling in the fire service, and the potential fall hazards associated with working on top of fire trucks while hose handling. Gerry noted that the IAFF statistics indicate that falls accounted for 7% of the incidents in 1999 and 5.9% of the incidents in 2000. Wayne noted that WSIB statistics show that falls are the second leading cause of injuries. Karen provided an overview of the falls incidents that were reported to and investigated by MOL. As indicated at the last meeting, MOL would like the Section 21 Committee to develop a GN on fall protection from fire trucks.

**ACTION:** Andy, Ellard and Wayne are to develop a GN for review at the next meeting.

## 12. MOL Report

- Karen reported that Sophie Dennis, the Director of the Western Region, MOL, is now the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of the Operations Division.
- Karen reported that Carol Sackville-Duyvelshoff, Associate Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch is now the Acting Director of the OHSB.
- Karen reported that she and the Co-Chairs have been to the OFC to present the Section 21 updates at the Fire Prevention Officers Seminar (November 30) and

the Executive Development Seminar (December 4). There is an upcoming presentation scheduled for the Northeastern Fire Education in North Bay on March 29th.

- Karen reported that there has been an EMS Subcommittee established by the Health Care Section 21 Committee. The first meeting is expected to occur in May 2008.
- The vacancy that AMO has on the Section 21 Committee may be filled soon.

#### Next Meeting

**To be held on April 24-25, 2008, at Stage West, 5400 Dixie Road, in Mississauga.**