

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
November 25-26, 2010**

Meeting at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto

Commencing at noon on Thursday, November 25, 2010

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
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Darren Storey	FFAO
Mike Vilneff	O AFC

Wayne Sutherland Public Services Health & Safety Association (Observer)

Karen Hanna MOL Facilitator

Regrets:

Shayne Mintz O AFC

Guests:

Kathleen Therriault MOL

Yvette Shirliff MOL

1. Review of Minutes from June 29-30, 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

The Committee asked if there was an update on Item 5 regarding the CSA Z94.4 Standard. Rod and Karen reported that the comment period for the revision to the Standard has passed. The CSA will be finalizing the revised Standard in the near future.

3. Update on O. Reg. 278/05 and O. Reg. 714/94

Matt and Ellard reported on the focused consultation that the Co-Chairs had with staff of the Ministry of Labour on October 19, 2010. The meeting was convened by staff from the Health and Safety Policy and Program Development Branch (HSPPDB) of the Ministry. Karen also attended this meeting. With respect to O. Reg. 714/94, Matt reported that after the focused consultation, both he and Ellard were contacted to provide the answers to some technical questions being asked by the Ministry. There was also discussion regarding the proposed language of the regulatory changes.

With respect to O. Reg. 278/05, Matt reported that he and Andy recently met with Dr. Don Pinchin of Pinchin Environmental. Dr. Pinchin indicated that the control of exposure to asbestos for firefighters is through the proper use of personal protective equipment. He also indicated that 1992 is considered to be the date in which asbestos was no longer being used regularly in building construction.

The exemption for firefighters and fire investigators from O. Reg. 278/05, if the exemptions are approved, will apply to emergency operations from the arrival of the truck through and until the completion of origin and cause work. The exemption will not apply to planned exercises such as training, nor will it apply to municipally owned facilities. With respect to the application of Reg. 833 Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents, Section 7.2 (2)(d) of the regulation states that “The employer shall provide, and workers shall wear and use, personal protective equipment appropriate in the circumstances to protect the workers from exposure to the agent, if engineering controls required by this Regulation, (d) are ineffective to prevent, control or limit exposure because of an emergency”.

Kathleen Therriault and Yvette Shirliff from the HSPADB of the Ministry attended the meeting and reviewed the proposed revisions to GN # 3-2 Asbestos with the Committee. They mentioned that the Regulatory Registry postings for the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 714/94 and O. Reg. 278/05 have a comment deadline of November 26, 2010. They also indicated that the Minister is committed to taking the proposed regulatory amendments to Cabinet and that they were pleased to have worked with the Committee on the amendments.

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

4. Comments on GN # 6-13 Violence and Harassment in the Workplace

The Committee reviewed the comments received on the revisions to GN # 6-13, previously known as Dealing with Potentially Violent Situations.

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

5. Revision of GN # 2-3 Radio Communications

Matt presented proposed revisions to the GN. Due to the extent of the proposed revisions, the Committee decided to send the GN out for comment.

ACTION: Karen to send the GN out for comment.

6. Light Weight Construction of Residential Occupancies

Matt distributed the OAFRC Resolution # 10-14 “Light Weight Construction of Residential Occupancies” dated November 17, 2010. Karen noted that the Section 21 Committee developed a Guidance Note on this in April 2003; GN # 6-18 Lightweight Building Construction. The Committee also has GN # 6-24 Building Collapse During Fire Situations, developed in October 2005 and updated in January 2007. It was also noted that there is an OFM Communiqué 2007-06 “Lightweight Engineered Framing Systems”, published in 2007.

ACTION: Matt and Kevin to review GN # 6-18 and GN # 6-24.

7. Firefighters’ Health Manual

Matt was in receipt of a manual entitled “The Firefighters’ Health Manual – Cellular Health Regulating Your Internal Environment” by Julianne H. McMullen R.N. This item was tabled for information, as the Section 21 Committee cannot endorse such a manual.

ACTION: Matt to inform the author that the Section 21 Committee is not in a position to endorse the manual.

8. **Serious Burn Injuries**

Matt distributed OAFRC Resolution # 10-16 “Mandatory Reporting of Serious Burn Injuries” dated November 17, 2010. There is presently no legislated requirement for serious burn injuries to be reported by hospitals or other emergency care facilities to the OFM or the local fire department. The OAFRC Resolution is to have legislation established that requires all serious burn injuries resulting from fire to be reported to the OFM and the local fire department in a timely fashion. This item was brought to the Committee as information only.

9. **Hightex 2010 Update**

Matt reported on a presentation that he conducted entitled “What Firefighters Need From Their PPE”. This led to a letter to Allen Vanguard regarding core cooling for first responders (explained in the next item).

10. **CPRC Research Proposal Update**

Matt reported that on behalf of Brampton Fire and Emergency Services, he signed a letter of support and endorsement to Jean-Phillipe Dionne, Research Engineering Manager of Allen Vanguard, regarding a research proposal to the Canadian Police Research College. The research proposal is with respect to the issue of personal cooling for first responders. A copy of the letter was included in the meeting package for the information of the Committee.

11. **Draft GN on Training Action Plans**

Gerry and Ed presented to the Committee a draft GN on Training Action Plans. The Committee discussed the draft and noted that it is important to co-locate the GN with GN # 7-1 Health and Safety During Training Exercises.

ACTION: Gerry and Ed to review the draft further and include a sample training safety plan.

12. **Inquiry Regarding Solar Farms and Firefighter Health and Safety**

Karen shared with the Committee the response that she provided to a Fire Chief who recently inquired regarding firefighter health and safety issues with photovoltaic solar farm installations. The Section 21 Committee does not have any Guidance Notes that specifically address solar farms. Of the Guidance Notes that have been produced to date, the most relevant are GN # 6-16 Machinery/Electrical Lockout During Emergency Response, and GN # 6-20 Electrical Hazards in Rescue and Fire Situations. GN # 6-20 references the “Electrical Safety Handbook for Emergency Responders – Best Practices for Coping with Electrical Hazards in Rescue and Fire Situations”, however, the handbook does not address newer technologies such as solar installations and wind turbines. Wayne noted that the PSHSA is working on obtaining the funding to update the handbook (Andy, Rod and Ellard attended a meeting in June 2010 with the PSHSA to discuss this issue). It was noted that the NFPA website has a document posted from the Fire Protection Research Foundation entitled “Fire Fighter Safety and Emergency Response for Solar Power Systems”. Page 57 of that document includes recommendations for the fire service when encountering solar power systems. This issue may be one that a stand alone Guidance Note should be developed to address.

ACTION: Committee members to research the issue further.

13. **Revision to GN # 7-5 Live Fire Training Considerations for Acquired Structures**

Karen presented a minor revision to GN # 7-5 that was suggested by an MOL Hygienist. The second bullet point in the GN will be revised to highlight the fact that asbestos or other designated substances could be present in an acquired structure. The revised second bullet point in the GN will read “Remove or repair all hazardous conditions. These conditions could

include the presence of asbestos or other designated substances, heavy objects on upper floors or roofs/chimneys, holes in floors covered and stairs made safe. Disconnect utilities as they pose a life safety risk.”

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

14. Draft GN All-Terrain Vehicles

Darren and Kevin presented a draft GN on All-Terrain Vehicle Operation for Fire Departments. The Committee decided that the best course of action would be to revise GN # 6-7 Driving Skills for Emergency Apparatus Response to add these types of specialty vehicles. It was noted that these vehicles should be operated in accordance with the manufacturers’ instructions.

ACTION: Darren/Andy/Kevin to revise GN # 6-7.

15. Draft GN Routine Medical Precautions

Andy presented a draft GN on routine medical precautions to be taken by fire department personnel. Karen noted that Chapter 7 of the Ontario Plan for an Influenza Pandemic is dedicated to Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety. Also, Appendix F of the Section 21 manual includes the Information Manual for Designated Officers. Karen indicated that she will have MOL’s Chief Physician review the draft GN.

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

16. Inquiry Regarding GN # 4-11 Fall Protection from Elevating Devices

Matt presented questions that he received regarding the use of fall-arrest and/or shock absorbing lanyards and the use of full-body harnesses. The Committee noted that an anchor point used to connect a lanyard, such as in the bucket of an aerial platform, must be engineered to withstand the shock load forces as described in the Guidance Note. Non-engineered anchor points cannot be used.

ACTION: Matt to answer the inquiry and provide Committee members with a copy of his response.

17. RIT Teams in Smaller Communities

Ellard discussed a situation that occurred recently in a small community and the establishment of RIT teams. Fire department obligations under the FPPA and the Municipal Fire Protection Guidelines were discussed as well as several relevant Section 21 Guidance Notes, such as GN # 6-11 Rapid Intervention Teams (Rescue), GN # 2-2 The Buddy System, and GN # 5-1 Firefighter Accountability and Entry Control.

18. OPFFA Health and Safety Seminar

Ellard reported to that the OPPFA is holding their annual Health and Safety Seminar from February 7-10, 2011. It is being held at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto. There will be a wellness/fitness train the trainer program at this year’s seminar and Renu Kulendran, Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch, Ministry of Labour, will be speaking. All Committee members were encouraged to attend the seminar.

19. Lockout Standards

Wayne reported that John Parish from the PSHSA is on the committee to update lockout standards. He encouraged anyone with any mobile lockout issues to forward them to John Parish.

20. MOL Report

Karen reported effective November 1, 2010, the Ministry of Labour established the MOL Health

& Safety Contact Centre. The public can now call about health and safety matters on a single province wide toll free number, 1-877-202-0008.

This number allows anyone, anywhere in Ontario to call one number to report a workplace health and safety incident, critical injury, fatality or work refusal. The public can also call that number if they suspect unsafe work practices or for general inquiries.

The number operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Next Meeting Date

January 31 and February 1, 2011, in Toronto