

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
February 11 - 12, 2009**

Meeting at Stage West, Mississauga

Commencing at Noon on Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Present:

Chris Powers	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Terry Allen	AMO
Darrell Ellwood	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC
Richard McCurdy	OPFFA
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Matt Pegg	O AFC
Julie Shott	AMO
Darren Storey	FFAO

Karen Hanna MOL Facilitator

Regrets:

Ellard Beaven	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Wayne Sutherland	MHSA (Observer)

1. Review of Minutes from October 1-2, 2008

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Draft GN # 6-27 – Fires in Industrial Dust Collectors, Hoppers and Bins

This item was deferred to the next meeting as both Shayne and Wayne were unable to attend the meeting.

ACTION: To be discussed at the April 2009 meeting.

4. Draft GN # 6-28 – Rescue from a Collapsed Trench

The draft Trench Rescue GN was discussed and it was noted that the GN was meant for Awareness level only. Matt outlined the changes that were made to the GN and the committee suggested further changes to the GN. The GN has been changed to be GN # 6-28 Rescue from a Collapsed Trench. It was agreed due to the changes made to the GN that it should be sent out for comment.

ACTION: Karen to send the GN out for comment.

5. Issues with Draft Revisions to GN # 6-2 (5) and GN # 6-3 (8)

The committee discussed the draft revisions to GN # 6-2 (5) Fire Fighting Near Water and GN # 6-3 (8) Water and Ice Rescue. It was decided by the committee, based on the discussions, to send the draft GNs out for comment.

ACTION: Karen to send the GNs out for comment.

6. Response from the CSA on the CSA Z180.1

Chris reported that he received a response from Ron Meyers of the Canadian Standards Association regarding the letter previously sent by the Section 21 Committee regarding CSA Z180.1 Compressed Breathing Air Systems. The letter sent to the CSA was to request the CSA to consider a revision to CSA Z180.1 to include specifications, testing, installation and operation of air filling stations for compressed air cylinders. The response from the CSA was included in the meeting package. Mr. Meyers indicated in the response that the CSA Z180.1 Technical Committee is addressing the concerns raised by the Section 21 Committee regarding fill stations. Mr. Meyers advised that a working group has been established by the CSA to address this issue and other issues that have been identified and submitted to CSA.

7. Fires in Pesticides Storage Facilities

Chris shared with the committee Warehousing Standards Bulletins produced by the Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association. One Bulletin pertained to who must meet the AWSA's Warehousing Standards and one Bulletin pertained to fire control tactics for agrichemical products. Chris indicated that there are 254 sites in Ontario that meet the requirements for the AWSA standards. Many other locations where pesticides may be stored do not fall under their standard but may fall under the Pesticide Regulations administered by the Ministry of Environment (MOE). There are changes being made by MOE to the fire department notification provisions outlined in the Pesticides Act (which used to be Section 124 of Ontario Regulation 914, Pesticides Act). The new fire department notification provisions are outlined in Section 112 of Ontario Regulation 63/09, Pesticides Act, administered by MOE. O. Reg. 63/09 comes into force April 22, 2009. The Section 21 Committee discussed that it may be a good idea for the OFM to develop a communiqué on the changes to the Pesticides Act. It was also decided that a GN should be developed for Pesticide Storage and Pesticide Storage Fires.

ACTION: Chris, Andy and Rod are to draft a GN for consideration at the next meeting.

8. Rope Rescue

Matt asked that this item be deferred until the next meeting. NFPA 1670 Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue indicates how rope rescue is to be done. It was noted that the Section 21 Committee has already developed the following GNs: GN # 1-5 (24) Life Safety Rope and GN # 6-4 (14) High-Angle Rescue.

ACTION: Matt and Wayne to review these GNs for consideration at the next meeting.

9. 24 Hour Shifts

A request was received from Kitchener Fire Department for the Section 21 Committee to discuss the issue of 24 hour shifts. The committee discussed the issue in a general sense, and Terry talked about a study on the 24 hour shift for firefighters and the impact on physical and cognitive abilities. Karen said that she had provided a reply to Kitchener Fire Department prior to the meeting indicating that the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and the regulations made under the OHSA do not prescribe hours of work for firefighters. Part IX of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, administered by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, prescribes the working conditions for firefighters in Section 43. That being said, the Section 21 Committee, as an advisory committee of the Minister of Labour, is not able to issue any guidance on hours of work for firefighters.

10. **IMS Update Agreement**

Chris distributed a letter dated November 12, 2008, regarding the Provincial Incident Management System. This letter will be jointly signed by Emergency Management Ontario, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Ontario Fire Marshal. The letter indicates that the “final draft” of the IMS doctrine is in its final review and noted the “several submissions identifying Fire Service concerns”. The Co-Chairs’ letter to EMO is currently posted on the O AFC website. This letter was sent to EMO subsequent to Mike Morton’s presentation to the Section 21 Committee in January 2008. The letter dated November 12, 2008, provides the fire service with updated information on IMS.

ACTION: Karen to request that the signed letter be posted on the O AFC website.

11. **CGSB 155.1**

Chris indicated that the Canadian General Standards Board is conducting a survey with respect to standard CAN/CGSB 155.1 Firefighters Protective Clothing for Protection Against Heat and Flame. This standard is referenced in Section 5 of Ontario Regulation 714/94 Firefighters – Protective Equipment. A letter was written on January 23, 2009, to the CGSB recommending either abandonment of the CGSB standard in favour of the NFPA 1971 standard, or recommending that CGSB recognize NFPA 1971 as meeting or exceeding NFPA 1971.

13. **Pandemic Planning**

Terry raised the issue of pandemic planning and indicated that the direction to fire departments may not be clear with respect to the personal protective equipment that firefighters should be wearing in the event of a pandemic.

ACTION: Karen to discuss this with the MOL Provincial Physician and noted that first responder information is available on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s website. Information is also available for first responders in the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services’ Influenza Pandemic Plan.

14. **Project Heroes and Firefighter Bunker Gear**

Richard informed the Section 21 Committee of an initiative of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) relating to firefighter bunker gear. The IAFF, as part of their Project Heroes initiative, has received a federal government contract in the United States to develop, test and prototype structural firefighting PPE with enhanced CBRN protective qualities. It was noted that a CBRN option has been proposed for the next edition of NFPA 1971. This initiative also involves Morning Pride Manufacturing and Total Fire Group.

ACTION: As equipment manufacturers are involved in the initiative and the Section 21 Committee cannot be involved in the endorsement of products as an advisory committee of the Minister of Labour, it was decided that any involvement in this initiative should be by members representing their individual associations and not as representatives of the Section 21 Committee.

15. **Draft GN # 6-29 – Prevention of Falls from Fire Apparatus**

The Section 21 Committee recommended changes to the draft GN. It will focus on fire departments establishing procedures to protect firefighters from the hazard of falls. It recommends employers to conduct a risk assessment of fire apparatus and to develop procedures specific to each fire apparatus to prevent fall from the apparatus while performing the normal job functions.

ACTION: Karen to send the GN out for comment.

16. Results of Research on an Elevator Specific GN

Richard requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: To be discussed at the April 2009 meeting.

17. Compartmental Fire Behaviour Training

Richard reported that the Ontario Fire College is researching alternative fuel sources rather than particleboard. Richard demonstrated different forms of fibreboard. Karen reminded the Section 21 Committee of what is recommended in GN # 7-1 (18) Health and Safety During Training Exercises. This GN indicates that to prevent injuries during training the precautions to be followed include identifying potential hazards and understanding the risks and protective measures.

18. Chevron Signs and Fire Apparatus

Darren shared information on highway hazard warning signs and fire apparatus. The Section 21 Committee discussed NFPA 1901 regarding rear chevrons and the increase in visibility that they provide on fire apparatus. There was also discussion on commercial vehicle inspection requirements under the Highway Traffic Act administered by the Ministry of Transportation.

ACTION: Chris to clarify commercial vehicle inspection requirements with the Ministry of Transportation. Darren and Julie will work on revising GN #1-2 (20) regarding commercial vehicle inspections.

19. Protective Clothing for Wildland Firefighting

A request had been received from Unitex to revise GN #4-7 (38) Wildland Fire Fighting to bring it up to date.

ACTION: Rod, Ellard and Matt to work on revising the GN.

20. Specialist High Skills Major

Karen shared with the Section 21 Committee information from the Ministry of Education's website regarding the Specialist High Skills Major in Community Safety and Emergency Services that is now available in some Ontario high schools. This program is to provide high school students with classroom courses and workplace experience. Completion of the program results in a special designation of program completion on their high school diploma.

21. Safe At Work Ontario

Karen provided the Section 21 Committee with an update on the Ministry of Labour's compliance strategy for 2008-2012. It was noted that sector plans (including that for the fire service sector) are on the MOL website. It was also noted that CSA standards referenced in occupational health and safety legislation is now available for viewing on the MOL website.

22. French Translation of O. Reg. 714/94

Karen informed the Section 21 Committee that the Firefighters – Protective Equipment regulation, O. Reg. 714/94, is now available in French as O. Reg. 24/09.

23. Old Reference Numbers on Guidance Notes

Ellard had posed a question as to whether it is valuable to keep the old reference numbers shown in brackets after the older GNs. The Section 21 Committee decided that these numbers can be removed from the manual.

ACTION: Karen to ensure that these references are removed when the manual is updated.

24. WSIB Occupational Disease Committee

Terry spoke with Paul Atkinson of the OPFFA to determine the status of the Primary

Prevention Committee, which has not met in some time. The social marketing campaign (the six SCBA posters introduced at the 2006 IAFF conference) was the first product of the Primary Prevention Committee.

ACTION: Terry to update the committee as information becomes available.

25. Ottawa Fire Services Report

Gerry shared with the Committee information on the report prepared by the Ottawa Professional Fire Fighters Association regarding the Forward Avenue fire that occurred in February 2007. This report was also shared at the OPFFA Health & Safety Seminar in January 2009.

26. MOL Report

- The Asbestos Working Group which was established after the October 2008 Section 21 Committee has had one meeting on November 24, 2008. Subsequent meetings will be arranged in the coming weeks.
- Karen conducted a presentation at the OPFFA Health & Safety Seminar on Safe At Work Ontario and Section 21 updates.
- It was reported to the Section 21 Committee that the occupational illness reporting requirements in Section 52 (2) and 52 (3) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) apply with respect to occupational illness claims to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, even where claims are due to the presumptive legislation. The OHSA reporting requirements did not change with the introduction of presumptive legislation. Section 21 members indicated that many in the fire service and municipalities may not be aware of this legislative requirement. Karen will have to check at MOL as to how best to disseminate this information (although the requirements have been in the OHSA for many years).

Next Meeting

To be held on April 7-8, 2009, in London.