

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
April 7 - 8, 2009**

Meeting at Best Western Lamplighter, London

Commencing at Noon on Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Present:

Ellard Beaven	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Chris Powers	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Terry Allen	AMO
Darrell Ellwood	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Matt Pegg	O AFC
Julie Shott	AMO

Wayne Sutherland MHSA (Observer)

Karen Hanna MOL Facilitator

Regrets:

Richard McCurdy	OPFFA
Darren Storey	FFAO

1. Review of Minutes from February 11-12, 2009

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

It was noted that the IMS Update Agreement (Item 10 from the February minutes) has been signed by the O AFC, OFM and EMO and is now posted on the O AFC website. Also, the Ottawa Fire Services Report (Item 25 from the February minutes) will be made available on the OPFFA website.

3. Review of Comments on Draft GN # 6-27 - Fires in Industrial Dust Collectors, Hoppers and Bins

The comments received by the Committee on the draft GN were reviewed and the finalized GN will proceed through the approval process. The Committee also discussed the possibility of developing a second GN specific to agricultural silos.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and proceed with approvals. Gerry and Wayne will work on drafting a GN on agricultural silos for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Review of Comments on GN # 6-2 - Fire Fighting Near Water and GN # 6-3 - Water and Ice Rescue

The Committee discussed the comments received on the draft revisions to the two water related GNs. The two revised GNs were finalized and are ready for inclusion in the manual.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GNs and place in the manual.

5. Review of Comments on Draft GN # 6-28 - Rescue from a Collapsed Trench

The comments received by the Committee on the draft GN were reviewed and the finalized GN will proceed through the approval process.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and proceed with approvals.

6. Review of Comments on Draft GN # 6-29 - Prevention of Falls from Fire Apparatus

The comments received by the Committee on the draft GN were reviewed and the finalized GN will proceed through the approval process.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and proceed with approvals.

7. Draft GN – Pesticide Storage and Pesticide Storage Fires

Chris developed a draft GN on Pesticide Storage and Pesticide Storage Fires. This draft GN includes the recent amendments that the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) made to the Pesticides Act, O. Reg. 63/09, which comes into force on April 22, 2009. The new fire department notification provisions are outlined in Section 112 of O. Reg. 63/09. Chris liaised with MOE on the Fire Department Pesticide Storage Notification form that serves as the notification required under Section 112.

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

8. Review of GN # 4-7 Wildland Fire Fighting, Protective Clothing and Equipment, Level One

Rod discussed this GN with the Committee. Ellard received an e-mail from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) regarding the agreements that MNR has with fire departments with respect to wildland firefighting. Matt noted that NFPA 1851 does not apply to wildland firefighting (he had received this question when presenting at the Northeastern Fire Education Conference).

ACTION: Ellard to share information from MNR and the GN will be discussed further at the next meeting.

9. Rope Rescue

Matt asked that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

ACTION: To be discussed at the June 2009 meeting.

10. Ventilation Saws

Andy had received a question regarding ventilation saws. There is a description of the types of ventilation saws contained in GN # 6-22 Ventilation Saws. Andy offered to research various saw types for discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION: Andy to present research on saw types for discussion at the June 2009 meeting.

11. Hydro Vault Fires

There was a discussion on hydro vault fires and electrical safety. GN # 6-20 Electrical Hazards in Rescue and Fire Situations references the 2003 edition of the Electrical Safety Handbook for Emergency Responders. This handbook is developed by the Municipal Health and Safety Association (MHSA), in partnership with Hydro One and the Office of the Fire Marshal. If there has not been an update to this handbook, the Committee was interested in writing to the MHSA to suggest that it be updated.

ACTION: Karen to contact MHSA to determine the date of the latest edition of the handbook.

12. Assistance to Ambulance Attendants

Matt had received a question from the Greater Napanee Fire Services regarding firefighters providing assistance to ambulance attendants while attending to patients on route to hospital and what the expectations are regarding the wearing of seat belts. Karen had provided an answer to this question on April 3, 2009, as follows:

Regulation 613 Seat Belt Assemblies made under the Highway Traffic Act is worded similarly for firefighters and ambulance attendants (see below). A firefighter attending to a patient would become "any other person transported in the patient's compartment of an ambulance". The exemption here is where attendance to a patient makes it impracticable to wear a seat belt assembly. This would be the type of work activity that the employer could identify that the exemption from wearing a seat belt under Regulation 613 could apply.

GN #1-1 (10) Fire Truck Occupant Safety states "Where firefighters are assisting Emergency Medical Services personnel in an ambulance attending to a patient.....Employers would have to determine which work activities, if any, would exempt firefighters from wearing a seat belt."

It is left with the employer to identify work activities where seat belts cannot be worn (i.e. work activities where the employer is applying the exemption). The employer could document this in an SOP.

The applicable sections from Regulation 613 are as follows:

5. An ambulance attendant or any other person transported in the patient's compartment of an ambulance as defined in section 61 of the Act is exempt from subsection 106 (3) of the Act where attendance to a patient makes it impracticable to wear a seat belt assembly.
6. A firefighter occupying a seating position behind the driver's cab in a fire department vehicle, as defined in section 61 of the Act, is exempt from subsection 106 (3) of the Act where the performance of work activities makes it impracticable to wear a seat belt assembly.

With respect to the issue of firefighters driving an ambulance, the Committee discussed Regulation 340/94 Drivers' Licences, made under the Highway Traffic Act. Section 22 (a.1) of this Regulation indicates that a firefighter has the authority "to drive a motor vehicle of any class including a vehicle equipped with air brakes, other than a motorcycle, on a highway in an emergency and in the performance of his or her duties". The Office of the Fire Marshal published communiqué No. 2003-09 on April 3, 2003, which provided further guidance on this issue. The communiqué indicated that "the regulation allows firefighters to drive ambulances during an emergency situation. The OFM recommends that fire departments in cooperation with local emergency medical services (EMS) and police services develop a protocol to determine how the new authority should be operationalized." This OFM communiqué is available on the OFM website.

13. Results of Research on an Elevator Specific GN

This item was deferred to the next meeting as Richard McCurdy, who is undertaking the research, was not able to attend the meeting.

ACTION: To be discussed at the June 2009 meeting.

14. **Revision of GN # 1-2 Annual Commercial Vehicle Inspections**

Julie provided an overview on proposed revisions to GN # 1-2. The GN has not been updated since March 2001. Chris had been liaising with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) regarding the requirements of MTO legislation.

ACTION: Karen will add the reference to the relevant MTO legislation and Chris will send it to his contact at MTO for further comment.

15. **Joint Fire/Police/EMS Meeting**

Discussion was held as to possible dates for a joint meeting of the Section 21 Committees for Fire and for Police, along with the EMS Subcommittee (of the Health Care Section 21 Committee). The first choice of the Committee was October 22 and 23, 2009. The second choice of the Committee was November 19 and 20, 2009. A possible item for discussion could be the protocol for communicating issues of common interest such as the Provincial IMS and CACC.

ACTION: Karen will discuss these dates with her colleagues who facilitate the Police Section 21 Committee and the EMS Subcommittee and report back at the June meeting.

16. **MOL Report**

- The next meeting of the Asbestos Working Group is scheduled for April 27.
- Karen reported that MOL is in the process of developing sector plans for fiscal year 2009/2010.

Next Meeting

To be held on June 4-5, 2009, in Kingston.